

BRISTOL RECORD SOCIETY'S
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VOL. III

BRISTOL CORPORATION
OF THE POOR
1696—1834

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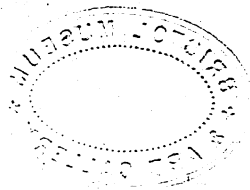
SELECTED RECORDS 1696—1834

EDITED BY

E. E. BUTCHER, M.A.

Assistant Lecturer in History, University of Bristol

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INTRODUCTION

THE early history of the Bristol Corporation of the Poor has the particular interest and importance attaching to the records of a pioneering enterprise. When Poor Law administration was a region still largely uncharted, it fell to Bristol, by the Act of 1696 "for Erecting of Hospitalls and Workhouses," to blaze the trail which over a century later was created a national highway by the Poor Law Reform of 1834. It is true that there were times when Bristol lagged behind in the enterprise, and that even the pioneers of 1696 had had their forerunners. The importance of the 1696 venture was that it first demonstrated the practical possibility of ideas which, apart from some abortive experiments, had existed only as suggestions and theories. The 1834 Parliament set out along the same lines, and though it deviated widely from them at many points, was seeking the same still elusive goal, the elimination of public relief for the able-bodied.

The Bristol Poor Act of 1696 is the background of all the records published in this book. It owed its existence chiefly to the inspiration of John Cary, merchant and social reformer, who in 1695 set forth in an *Essay on the State of England in relation to its Trade, its Poor and its Taxes*,¹ the principles which actuated him. "Idleness," he said, "is the Foundation of all those Vices which prevail among us . . . the ill consequences whereof cannot be prevented, but by encouraging Youth in an early delight of living by Industry and on what they call their own . . . which will keep up a true British Spirit,—nor is God more honoured among any, than He is among such industrious People, who abhor Vice, on equal principles of Religion and Good Husbandry, Labour being usually a Barrier against Sin."² His own observation of the beggars who "take more Pains than an honest man doth at his Trade" led him to the conclusion that increasing mendicity could only be checked by such laws "as may provide Work for those who are willing, and force them to

¹ First printed 1695; later and enlarged edition 1745.

² Cary, *Essay on the State of England*, 1745 edition, pp. 112-113.

work that are able, and for this use, I think Workhouses very expedient."¹

Neither these views nor the measures resulting from them were entirely original; but the Bristol Act of 7 and 8 William III seems to have been the first of such measures to achieve a fair degree of success. That the need for some such scheme was widely felt is shown by the number of its imitators: Tiverton, Exeter, Hereford, Colchester, Kingston and Shaftesbury obtained similar Acts within the next two years; and King's Lynn, Sudbury, Plymouth, Gloucester, Worcester and Norwich a little later.

The Act had two outstanding features: (1) the attempt to establish a "pauper" manufactory, (2) the incorporation of the seventeen City parishes, the Castle Precincts ranking as an eighteenth member. The Common Council Proceedings² give an account of previous attempts, in 1653 and 1679, to establish a manufactory "for the better employment and maintaining the Poor"; each time, as in 1696, the initial expense was met by a combined effort, but in the two earlier cases the commercial management was handed over to a contractor. Neither scheme apparently was successful: of the first, no further mention occurs save in 1655, when a committee was appointed to inspect the "new workehouse for the poore";³ of the £2,000 raised for the second venture nothing is heard again save the oddly-worded entries in the Mayor's Audits⁴ showing that, although the City Treasury was credited with "£000," £600 had been repaid to the individual lenders.

The Quarter Sessions records of the preceding period provide evidence that co-operation, the first step towards incorporation, had been found necessary for some time before 1696 in the ordinary working of the Poor Law. The inequalities of the parochial system, which thrust the heaviest burden on the poorest parishes, were accentuated in a city where the industrial population of certain parishes (Temple, St. James, and St. Philip and St. Jacob) was growing steadily; the magistrates therefore compelled the small central parishes, which remained commercial and were not expanding, to take some of the burden from their poorer neighbours. For this purpose, on 27th May, 1691, an

¹ Cary, *Essay on the State of England*, 1745 edition, p. 106.

² See below, under dates 14th March, 1653 and 15th May, 1679.

³ *Common Council Proceedings*, 5th January, 1655.

⁴ See below, under date 12th November, 1683.

order had been made to St. Augustine's Parish to continue to help St. Philip and St. Jacob by contributions for its poor.¹ In July, 1692, the magistrates relieved St. Stephen's of a like obligation for St. James's Parish, on the double ground of its own poverty and the misappropriation of the money by St. James's parish officers to their own purposes.² A woman committed to Bridewell had been maintained by several parishes jointly.³ In 1696, St. Philip's had been authorized to raise "a fifth Quarter" from "St. Walburg St. Maryport St. Ewens All Saints and St. Stephens" as well as its own inhabitants.⁴

The details of the 1696 Act are of some importance, as the records in this book are naturally a development of its theme and a commentary upon it. The Act gave to the incorporated parishes a common fund for all purposes connected with the employment and maintenance of the poor. The Corporation of the Poor was to certify the Mayor each year of the amount needed for the year; he would then allot to each parish and precinct its share and issue warrants to the parish officers for the collection of this; the parish officers would make the individual assessments within their own areas, and collect the rate.

This stopped at once within the area of the incorporation the endless expense and irritation of settlement litigation: a saving which James Johnson⁵ declares is beyond calculation. In unions less complete, where each parish contributed to the rates in proportion to the number of its own paupers, it was still politic for parish officers to disown every pauper they could, even at the cost of frequent law charges. Even in Bristol the change did not secure equality in rating, since this depended on (a) the magistrates' allotment to parishes, (b) the parish officers' assessment; and apparently neither was revised for over a hundred years. Moreover, until the Act of 1822 a deficit in the year's collection from any parish was re-assessed in the next year, not on the whole area, but on the defaulting parish alone, so that a time of poverty meant a cumulative burden on a needy parish.

The governing Court of Guardians formed in 1696 consisted of the Mayor and Aldermen (*ex-officio*) and forty-eight Guardians,

¹ *Quarter Sessions Records*, 27th May, 1691.

² *Ibid.*, 10th July, 1692.

³ *Ibid.*, 9th January, 1693.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 21st April, 1696.

⁵ *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 7.

"to be chosen out of the honestest and discreetest inhabitants of the said City," four representing each of the Wards of the City and the Castle Precincts. All inhabitants paying 1d. or more per week to the Poor's Rate might vote. Thus the parish was not the unit of election; but it was still used until 1823 as the basis in assessing and collecting rates, and until 1828 in the payment of out-relief to permanent cases. The parish almshouses were retained in several instances, apparently without any clear understanding as to the responsibility for the upkeep of those which were unendowed. Some were transferred to the new Corporation,¹ but in the case of St. Nicholas and St. Thomas it shared the expenses with the parish.

The duties of the Corporation as defined by the 1696 Act were: "to have the care of, and provide for the Maintenance of all the Poor of the said City, of what Age or Kind soever they be, except such as shall be otherwise sufficiently provided for by the charitable Gifts of other Persons." It was given power to apprehend rogues and vagabonds and cause them to be set to work in its establishments for periods not exceeding three years; to search the city for "settlers"; to compel the poor receiving parish relief to live in its Hospitals; to keep children in its service until sixteen years old if they became chargeable, and to apprentice any up to the age of sixteen (two years beyond the customary limit) for any period up to seven years.

The first Corporation soon discovered that a postscript to this Act was essential: a clause enabling it to override obstructive and unsympathetic Mayors. The machinery obviously could not function without money, and in the first year of its life the Corporation came up against a Mayor whom no importunity could move to issue the necessary writ for the collection of the rate. This was John Hine, Mayor 1696-7; he "resolved to obstruct us all he could," says Cary, but "we laboured to keep up the Spirits of our Friends";² and the Guardians continued to meet, themselves advancing the weekly relief money during the year in order that the poor might not suffer. No sooner had John Hine's retirement from office removed one obstacle than Churchwardens and Overseers began to put a similar spoke in the machinery. In January, 1697, appears the first complaint

¹ This is the title most frequently used for the body of Guardians, both in its own records and elsewhere. It is therefore reserved for them in this book, and the governing body of the city is referred to as the City Council.

² Cary, *Account of Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol*, 1700, pp. 3, 4.

that several have neglected or refused to bring in their rates.¹ To prevent the recurrence of such hindrances, further powers were granted to the Corporation by two clauses inserted (at a cost of £7 9s. 4d.) in the Tiverton Workhouse Act of 1698.

The "Tiverton Clause" empowered the Guardians to issue warrants for the levying of rates, if the magistrates did not do so within twenty days after being certified of the amount required; and similarly to issue warrants for distraint and sale of goods against Churchwardens who did not bring in their rates within twenty days of the Corporation's demand for them. This power had frequently to be used: in 1699 all eighteen parishes were reported as not sending in their rates when demanded.² Johnson diagnoses the cause of the trouble as jealousy,³ and he is probably right, for the acute phase of the disorder subsided after 1714, when a new Act added the Churchwardens of all the parishes to the Court of Guardians "for ever." Four years later this was amended by another Act, excluding the Junior Churchwardens because the enlarged Court had been found unwieldy.

THE WORKHOUSE AS AN EMPLOYMENT CENTRE.

The Workhouse experiment, the most original and important of the early Guardians' activities, was the outcome of the concern caused by the increase of unemployment among the able-bodied poor. Its fortunes can be followed fairly clearly in the records; these are enlarged upon and illuminated by John Cary's *Account of the Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol*, written in 1700, by Isaac Cooke's *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol* in 1785, and by the writings of James Johnson in 1820 and 1826.

Cary and his colleagues meant to found two Workhouses; that for one hundred girls was duly established in the building adjoining Bridewell lent by the City Council for the purpose. The plans for building a second Workhouse for boys⁴ never materialized, owing to John Hine's obstinacy; when he ceased to block the way, the Corporation chose a speedier course, and bought for £800 the already historic premises destined to be its headquarters for the rest of its life, and to pass by inheritance in the direct line to its successors, the Public Assistance Committee

¹ See below, under date 19th January, 1697.

² *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 26th April, 1699.

³ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, 1826, p. 8.

⁴ See below, under date 13th August, 1696.

of to-day. It was on 7th June, 1698, that the Guardians took possession of the Mint as their chief Workhouse, afterwards renamed St. Peter's Hospital. They bought it of Edward Colston, Richard Beecham, a London merchant, Sir Thomas Day and Captain Nathaniel Day. Cary's *Account of the Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol* shows that the hundred boy inmates were soon joined by other inhabitants, some aged, some infirm, some lunatic; so that the transformation of the Workhouse into a "hospital" began almost at once. Additional buildings were necessary even before the girls migrated thither in 1709; and other extensions were made in 1738, 1795, 1817 and 1822-3, including an infirmary, workrooms for the flannel manufactory and a schoolroom.

Cary makes it clear that the main purpose of the Workhouse was educational and disciplinary, not financial. He is satisfied that "all do something, though perhaps some of their Labours comes to little, yet it keeps them from Idleness."¹ He remarks that by fixing the girls' hours for spinning at 10½ a day in summer and 9½ in winter the Guardians disproved the criticism that the poor will not work. From this point of view the experiment was a success. The girls, he says, were so "incouraged" by being new clothed from head to foot and given good food and beds, that they soon settled down cheerfully. The encouraging treatment even included "leave to walk on the Hills with their Tutresses, when their work was over, and the weather fair; by which means we won them into Civility, and a love to their Labour."²

Nevertheless, Cary is not indifferent to financial success; he is proud of the fact that the children's labours ultimately produced nearly £12 a week (including £6 from the boys' weaving), and gives an interesting account of the difficulties through which the Corporation struggled to this result. They had shown their enterprise by deciding to enter into business on their own account, instead of employing a contractor as earlier experimenters had done; but it was as salesmen, not as employers, that they encountered their worst difficulties. They could get no more than 8d. a pound for the yarn spun, because the weavers complained of its coarse quality. The Guardians thereupon tried to improve their products. When the children had had some

¹ Cary, *Account of Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol*, p. 17.

² *Ibid.*, p. 11.

practice, they were paid wages and the wool was priced by the Master "by the Snap Reel" according to fineness. The buyers still refused to give more than 8d., even for the finer yarns. The Committee finally circumvented them by resolving to employ all the poor of the city who applied to them, paying wages in cash at the city's rate. The result was that the manufacturers at last consented to distinguish between fine and coarse yarn; the Guardians could sell all that the children could spin, at prices ranging from 8d. to 2s., 2s. 6d. and even 3s. 6d.

Many records in the Court Books show clearly that even in the year of this hopeful report the weaving was repeating the history of the spinning: the Court obviously had to rack its brains for expedients to sell its goods; and even the apparently satisfactory balance shown in 1700 is less healthy than it looks. It is almost half made up of the value of goods unsold, and most of the rest consists of raw materials in hand.

Possibly the difficulty of the Guardians in selling their wares was due partly to the inefficiency of their workers. Since their aim was to give the children a technical training in a trade which would make them independent in later life, they were necessarily employing in a skilled occupation labour at first quite unskilled, and the products could not always reach even the average standard of quality. But indications soon appear of a conflicting theory as to the purpose of pauper manufactories: that they were set up for the immediate benefit of the ratepayers, to lessen the rates. Hence the increasing tendency of the Corporation to adopt unskilled occupations, wherein unskilled labour yields the quickest returns. Pin-making, the favourite expedient of Guardians of this school of thought, appears often in the records. The picking of hair and oakum, an occupation of the same class, begun at St. Peter's Hospital in 1743,¹ was apparently kept up continuously on a small scale for those aged and semi-infirm who were not wholly incapable of work.

Throughout the period covered by the records, industry, as a source of revenue alternates with industry as a means of education. The balance of duration lies with the former, for skilled manufactures occupy only the years 1697-1703, 1750-60, 1789-92, 1795-1800. The balance of success lies with the more far-sighted plan; for whereas Cary's account shows that the Workhouse did produce some expert workers, it never managed

¹ See below, under date 9th February, 1743.

to produce profits from either skilled or unskilled occupations. The first venture came nearest to financial success, but Johnson records that by 1703 decline had set in, and there was a loss of £190 on the year. The only method by which manufactures could be carried on without loss was that adopted in 1750-60, 1789-92 and in 1800, the employment of a contractor.¹ It is probably because of these financial difficulties that at times the Workhouse ceased almost entirely to deserve its name. The institution became the Hospital; in 1820 eighty-five of the inmates were needed to look after the 306 impotent of "the Family";² in 1825 the total numbers and proportion of domestic staff are slightly higher.³

Although unemployment was as urgent a problem in the early nineteenth century as a century earlier, it figures less in the Corporation's records, as they had given up business on their own account and resorted to the plan of putting the poor under outside employers. A good deal of information about these experiments is contained in the newspapers of the period and in the writings of three Deputy-Governors, Isaac Cooke (1786), Thomas Menlove (1825), and James Johnson (1820 and 1826). The work was intended as a test for able-bodied applicants, whether adults or children. No relief was paid for children whose parents would not let them work at the pin manufacture prescribed. A contract for their employment was made in 1821 with Messrs. Croucher and Kirby of Gloucester, and quick workers could earn 2s. or 3s. a week at home.⁴

The Corporation at one time passed on as many adult applicants as possible, especially vagrants, to the Society for Employing the Labouring Poor, which set them to lower Redcliff Hill, then a somewhat dangerous approach to the city. Johnson testifies that this policy deterred many hundreds of Irish labourers from applying for relief.⁵ Other outside occupations tried were "steyning" Bristol streets with Brandon Hill sandstone,⁶ and stone-breaking at Hotwells. The latter was carried on for some years, although the Guardians disliked it on account of the

¹ See below, under dates 21st May, 1759; 12th June, 1760; 12th February, 1789; 10th February, 1800.

² Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, 1820, p. 144.

³ T. Menlove in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 2nd July, 1825.

⁴ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 81.

⁵ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 24, footnote.

⁶ G. Cumberland, in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 1st May, 1824.

inspection journeys it involved. Johnson found it necessary to go to Hotwells two or three times a week, but neither his vigilance nor that of the official who measured the work done could prevent a loss of quite 1s. a ton through the theft of stones. The stone-breaking nearly led to a riot at St. Peter's Hospital in 1832, owing to a change in the system of payment. Instead of "piece rates" a time unit was adopted, making forty-eight hours' work a week compulsory to qualify for relief. The scale paid was 3s. 4d. a week, plus an allowance of 3d. a day for each child. A wife was allowed 2s. 1d. a week, for which she must work at knitting or lace-making. A few violent men objected to having to work more for their money, and attacked the Hospital, but none of its inmates joined them, and upon the arrest of two ringleaders the "riot" ended.¹

The interest of the incident lies in the modern ring of the newspaper controversy which it aroused. One party condemned the work as "oppressive, impolitic and unjust," because they persisted in regarding the payment as wages, and therefore held it obviously unfair for one man to get more than another, and more even than an independent labourer, just because he had more children. But the Guardians looked upon the work merely as a test, and the money as a normal relief allowance, which could not, therefore, compete or be compared with the independent labourer's wage for the same work. Even the twentieth century has not yet found a practical solution to this problem.

It may be of interest to relate the outcome of two of the latest employment efforts shown in these records.² According to the *Bristol Mirror*, the scheme for laying out Brandon Hill as a park was proposed because in the previous year nearly £4,000 had been spent in relief for "Working Cases" and only £205 3s. 2d. received from their labour. But the City Council found legal obstacles to the proposed lease of the Hill, so the plan had to be abandoned.

The Court Books record the Corporation's first experiments in emigration, but not their largest. In September, 1833, they prepared to send to Van Diemen's Land, with their own consent, seventy boys and girls over twelve years of age, and fifty adults with their families. The Guardians would pay £7 a head of the passage money, and a resident in the colony the remaining £16,

¹ William Barrett, Deputy-Governor, in *Bristol Mirror*, 31st May, 1832.

² See below, under dates 14th June and 31st July, 1832.

in return for which all the party were to be apprenticed to him for three years. In spite of some doubts as to the legality of using the rates "beyond the bounds of the British dominions," and as to the security for the emigrants' freedom after their apprenticeship, the party was equipped and set out. Then suddenly, on 30th November, the *Bristol Mirror* announced that they were returning from Liverpool because the vessel could not start. The Guardians were left with a bill of £1,309 15s. 8d., and all the would-be emigrants still on the rates.

THE WORKHOUSE AS A HOSPITAL.

The transformation of the Mint Workhouse into the Hospital began before 1700, with the admission of infirm and aged inmates. Cary explains that these were either impotent or incorrigible beggars;¹ Johnson, quoting from a Committee minute book for that period, says that of thirty-six such admitted in three months twelve were over seventy years old. Most of them were employed in picking cotton, making bone lace, or helping to look after the boys.² The first notice of the admission of a cripple is on 11th December, 1701.³ The proportion of "impotent" increased, until in 1820 128 of the 436 inmates are classified as past work, 81 as children, and 97 as sick or insane.⁴ In 1825, when there were 461 persons in "the Family," 319 were impotent.⁵

As early as 1707 the Court Books mention a lunatic housed in the Mint.⁶ In March, 1704, it had been decided that such patients should go to the New Workhouse, so that the Keeper of the adjoining Bridewell could help to look after them; but this accommodation was not available after the City Council recovered possession of those premises.⁷ By the early nineteenth century it is regarded as "the proper and legitimate use" of St. Peter's Hospital that it should be "the general . . . Lunatic Asylum for Bristol."⁸

The few glimpses of the treatment of these patients given

¹ Cary, *Account of Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol*, p. 16.

² Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 75.

³ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*.

⁴ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 144.

⁵ T. Menlove, in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 2nd July, 1825.

⁶ 15th September, 1707.

⁷ See below, under date 11th August, 1720.

⁸ T. Menlove, in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 2nd July, 1825.

by the records show some regard for their welfare. The cold bath which collapsed into the river in 1771 had been installed chiefly for their benefit two years before, on the physician's recommendation.¹ Johnson reports that the "Frenzy patients" are treated "with all tenderness consistent with their safety"; the only apparatus allowed for restraint in violent cases is the strait waistcoat, straps for the arms, and the "pens." Contrary to the usual practice of the age, no chains are used.²

As the Workhouse became the Hospital, although not in the modern sense of the term, its medical work grew in volume and importance, and the medical staff was gradually increased until it numbered two or three surgeons, two or three physicians, and an apothecary. Nurses were appointed by the Matron from the "sober, honest, industrious part of the family." The pioneer of the medical department, Dr. Thomas Dover,³ who on 9th December, 1697, "offered himself to be Phisitian to the New Workhouse gratis,"⁴ was the originator of the Dover's powder which held its own as a remedy as late as the nineteenth century, when it formed part of Stanley's equipment for his African journeys. Other doctors, both "chyrurgeons" and "Phisitians," followed his example in giving their services to the Corporation; but in general appointments were made by the Court after advertising for applications.

The records give conflicting evidence on one question concerning the medical staff: was there any regular payment for the work? It seems too much to expect even of a humanitarian profession that for a hundred years doctors should tend for nothing a hospital whose impotent population rose to about 450, and should even compete for election to its staff and publish thanks in the newspapers to the Guardians whose votes had secured such election.⁵ Occasional payments for professional services are mentioned. Extracts given by Johnson from the records of the early years (the epoch of the barber-surgeon) include an order of 1699 "that the chirurgeons have £10 per annum paid them for their attendance in this house, and looking over the people that want their assistance, and

¹ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 12th April, 1770.

² Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 97.

³ Also owner and officer of the ship which rescued Alexander Selkirk from his island.

⁴ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*.

⁵ E. E. Day, in *Bristol Mirror*, 30th October, 1819.

likewise for medicines that shall be used in chirurgery, and also for shaving the men, and cutting the boys' hair."¹ Two fees for curing rupture are also recorded, and a provisional vote of 20s. to a doctor for curing a woman of the King's Evil "when the cure is performed." A doctor's account presented in 1708 was criticized by the Court as too heavy. Twice a regular salary was voted: in 1703, when two of the surgeons who had volunteered in 1697 were voted £32 a year jointly; and in 1735, when John Deverell was given £16 a year. Offers of free service, like that of Mr. Barrett in October, 1767, to inoculate the children, are recorded as a special event.

On the other hand, in 1780 and 1781 the surgeons asked for a salary, and it was emphatically refused. When they resigned in protest, a volunteer immediately filled the vacancy. The money bonus with which the Corporation usually recognized extra services by its paid staff in times of emergency was only once given to doctors.² On all other such occasions they were merely thanked. Johnson's table of the "entire expense of the medical department" mentions no fees, and the only salary he includes is that of the Apothecary.³

The Apothecary, whose pivotal position in the medical department is clearly shown by the records, was first appointed in 1717. He was the only full-time member of the department, and its only salaried one. Until 1730 he received £60 a year; then it rose to £80, and in 1743 to £100, but it was still inadequate, as he had to find all his own drugs. Hence the reform of February, 1790, when the Corporation stocked its own dispensary in the House, with the Apothecary in charge at a salary of £60 a year. Still more important was the change in 1811, when the post was made resident.

THE WORKHOUSE AS A RESIDENT INSTITUTION.

The gravest charge against St. Peter's Hospital as a home for paupers is that of insufficient accommodation. The purchasers of 1698 cannot be blamed for not foreseeing either the great increase in the number of Bristol poor in the following 130 years or the transformation of their Workhouse into a Hospital. The second of these changes made urgent the classification which

¹ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 112.

² *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 11th February, 1790.

³ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 107.

the first made impossible. At first, before the girls had migrated from their separate Workhouse, it was easy to keep the old men on one floor, the old women on another, and both separate from the boys. Yet Sir Francis Eden, visiting the place about 1795, found it dirty and overcrowded, without even sex classification; and the Master laid the blame for this on the unsuitability of the building.¹ Johnson condemns it emphatically; he declares that its only qualification for its purpose is its site, and that therefore it ought to have been pulled down in 1698, and a new Workhouse built there.²

Additions were made during the period, but the glimpses which the records occasionally allow of the subject suggest that expenditure both on these and on repairs was put off until the eleventh hour or later. It is only when the end of one of the efforts at manufacture leaves some rooms free (in 1767) that the Court notes the great need for extra bedrooms for the children who are sleeping "Six and Eight in a Bed in a very confined apartment."³ The special Court held in 1771 to consider of the dangerous state of the river wall was not called until shortly before the wall collapsed.⁴

These incidents gain significance from the fuller data of printed records for the later years. The *Bristol Mirror* estimates that the house could take 300 inmates comfortably.⁵ Isaac Cooke, by weeding out the work-shy by the application of a labour test, managed to reduce its population in 1785 to 325.⁶ At Sir Francis Eden's visit, about 1795, the total number of inhabitants was 350, sixty-three of whom were in "a pest house belonging to the Workhouse." As Eden calls the house overcrowded, this "pest house" was probably the infirmary on the premises,⁷ not the Lodge House in Milk Street so long used by the Guardians for their sick. The totals recorded by Johnson for the years 1812 to 1819 show a minimum of 376 (in 1814) and a maximum of 436 (in 1819).⁸ From 1820 to 1834, according to the annual balance sheet published in the local newspapers,

¹ Sir Francis Eden, *State of the Poor*, vol. ii, pp. 184, 185.

² Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 35.

³ See below, under date 10th December, 1767.

⁴ *Ibid.*, under dates 10th and 17th October, 1771.

⁵ 11th August, 1832.

⁶ Isaac Cooke, *Address on Increase of Poor Tax*, 1786, inset at page 6.

⁷ Added in 1738.

⁸ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 45.

the best year is 1821-2, with an average of only 420 inmates; the peak year is 1833, with an average of 600.

Under such conditions classification was impossible. The rules of 1817 for Master and Matron urge it, but rather as a counsel of perfection—"as far as possible." In 1819 the Court, after inquiry, contradicted a report that the healthy had to sleep with infectious patients; but they added a rider recommending that another room be built, in order to class patients better.¹ This rather suggests fire beneath the smoke. The Guardians, however, made two efforts to remedy the evil, and each time their action was paralysed by events beyond their control. The 1822 Bristol Poor Bill proposed building a new Workhouse; but the city had just had to build a new gaol, and the ratepayers with one accord refused flatly to put up another costly building. The clause had to be struck out to save the Bill. In 1830 the purchase of the Armoury at Stapleton for use as a lunatic asylum was resolved on,² but it came to nothing, because before the place was ready the Reform riots devastated part of the city, and Bristol had to face the task of raising £10,000 a year to pay the damages.

The tragedy of 1832, on which the Court Books are almost silent, was therefore not entirely the Corporation's fault. The horror which swept through the city with the cholera reached its climax at St. Peter's Hospital. According to statistics, the Hospital's record had compared far more unfavourably with that of the city in the typhus epidemic of 1817-18, when the Dispensary had a death-rate of 1 in 50 patients, whereas at St. Peter's, under similar treatment, 1 in 4 cases died. Probably it was the swift violence of the cholera which made it more alarming; the death rate in the Workhouse was similar in proportion to the number of cases to that for the whole city.³ But of the 105 fatal cases reported in Bristol in the first month (11th July to 10th August) 71 were in St. Peter's Hospital. Ten days later it was reported clear of the disease, which had not yet quite reached its height in the city; but the reason for this improvement was partly that so many had died already.

The newspapers said all they could for the Guardians, emphasizing the high proportion of sick, aged and children in the House, and declaring that there had been "great kindness

¹ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 12th August, 1819.

² *Ibid.*, 29th July, 1830. The Act of 1 William IV gave authority for the purchase.

³ City, 105: 261; St. Peter's Hospital, 71: 168.

and attention to cleanliness and ventilation, as far as in such a building is practicable."¹ But no apologist could deny that the disaster was due to overcrowding: the girls' ward had 10 beds and 58 inmates, 8 of them in one bed; the boys' ward had between 70 and 80 boys in 16 beds.

Emergency measures had to be taken at once by the removal of 100 inmates during the week of 10th to 17th August,² perhaps to the still unfurnished Armoury. The changes in Poor Law organization already in the air probably delayed any permanent arrangement; but after the Act of 1834 the first proposal submitted by the Bristol Guardians to the Assistant Commissioner for his sanction was that for the purchase of the Admiralty prison at Stapleton, which it was now proposed to turn into an additional Workhouse.³ It was not long before St. Peter's Hospital could be described by the Assistant Commissioner (in 1835) as "one of the most cleanly and well-ventilated establishments in England."⁴

In the matter of food, the inmates of St. Peter's Hospital had small ground for complaint. From Cary to Johnson, all Guardians who refer to the subject agree that the Workhouse diet is far better than an average labourer's family could afford; and they see no reason for lowering its standard. Cary says that the beer supplied to the first Workhouse was "such as we drank at our own Tables"; and the other provisions, selected after consultation with the doctor, included "Beef, Pease, Potatoes, Broath, Pease-porridge, Milk-porridge, Bread and Cheese, . . . Cabbage, Carrots, Turnips, etc.," all of the best quality.⁵ Isaac Cooke, after reducing the cost of provisions for the Workhouse from £3,464 17s. 10½d. for a nominal total of 420 inmates in 1783 to £1,587 10s. 3d. for 325 inmates in 1785, maintained that the standard of living was still higher than a labourer with average family could attain if he spent all his wages in food.⁶ The cost, which in Cary's time was about 1s. 4d. per week per person, had risen to almost 3s. in 1820.⁷

¹ *Bristol Mirror*, 11th August, 1832.

² *Ibid.*, 18th August, 1832.

³ See below, under date 11th November, 1834.

⁴ Latimer, *Annals of Bristol, Nineteenth Century*, p. 200, footnote.

⁵ Cary, *Account of Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol*, p. 12.

⁶ Cooke, *Address on Increase of Poor Rate*, pp. 13, 14.

⁷ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, pp. 46, 47.

Eden in 1795, Johnson in 1820, and Menlove, Deputy-Governor in 1825, give detailed menus of the Hospital, very similar and all more monotonous than Cary's list. Menlove adds to the bread and cheese supper a pint of beer, but says it "will hardly stand glancing at." For dinner there was either soup or bread and cheese or meat and potatoes. The rations per head in 1795 were : 1 lb. of meat a day, 3 oz. of cheese per cheese meal, 1 lb. of bread on meat days. In 1820 meat was reduced to 9 oz. and bread to 14 oz., with 10 oz. of potatoes on soup days and 8 oz. on meat days. Nurses had meat every day. Vegetables were not rationed. At Easter and Whitsuntide there was veal, and at Christmas plum-puddings and extra beef. Advertisements for provision contracts always stipulate for good quality.

The only criticisms of the commissariat during the period are charges of waste and extravagance, which culminate in the reform campaign of the Isaac Cooke *régime* (1784-6). A rapid increase in the rates led to an enquiry in 1784 into the economy of the Hospital, with two results : the resolutions of 7th April, 1785,¹ and the reduction in provision costs mentioned above. A number of reforms contributed to this reduction : it was discovered that the population of the Hospital had been regularly over-estimated, and various items therefore over-budgeted ; the institution of test work quickly reduced the number of able-bodied inmates ; contractors were alarmed to find their goods weighed and measured upon delivery ; and an attempt was made to adjust supply to demand.

The first of these reforms was due chiefly to a Guardian who discovered that one of his colleagues had signed the Visitors' Report recording 476 inmates when only 405 answered the roll-call that day. He thereupon undertook in 1784 to call over the roll himself every week and check the number in the Report. When the third reform was initiated, the coal contractor refused to have his coal weighed unless he was given another 1d. a sack for it ; and the Corporation had to grant it, because no one would make a lower tender "to have it measured." The fourth reform revealed the most startling abuse : bread and cheese had been supplied so much in excess of demand that the inmates, forbidden to dispose of provisions outside the Hospital, sold back the surplus to the Matron at 1d. a loaf. In twenty months this second-hand trade showed a turn over of 65,342 pound loaves, and

¹ See below, under that date.

in one year it cost the House nearly £1,000, not counting the first-hand purchase of the food.¹

Menlove, in 1825, found it necessary to reorganize the distribution of food, which had been under the superintendence of paupers. One man was paid 9d. a week to receive all the malt and hops for brewing and to distribute all the beer and porter; another, for 2s. 6d. a week, was responsible for the rations of meat, bread and cheese. It is not surprising that economy was better served by transferring the work to fully-paid servants.

Clothing, which is rarely mentioned in the records, seems to have been on less generous lines than food. Menlove says that its coarseness distinguishes the wearers as surely as a badge. The shoes were made chiefly by out-of-work shoemakers who applied for relief, and the grey clothing was a product of the Hospital. Johnson suggests that the preference of the 1699 Corporation for blue² was perhaps political.³

In this item also there had been extravagant expenditure before 1784, when Isaac Cooke found that stocks quite unrelated to the demand had been bought in annually before the election of the new Governor, when it was customary to provide the household with new linen and other clothing. The surplus was so large that the expenditure of £579 5s. 5d. for clothing in 1783 could be reduced in 1784 to £348 8s. 1d., and in 1785 to £51 12s. 1½d. At the end of the year 1785-6 there were still 780 yards of material of various kinds in store, besides many other articles.⁴ These and later accounts of clothing costs always include goods supplied to the out-poor.

The education of the poor scarcely emerged from the status of a luxury during this period, so it is not surprising that the Corporation supplied it only sparingly and spasmodically. Cary and his fellows arranged to teach both boys and girls to read; even the toddlers "who can speak and go are carried down into the School to learn their A, B, C, &c."⁵ It was intended to add writing to the boys' curriculum.

The allusions in the records to education show that in the

¹ Cooke, *Address on Increase of Poor Tax*, inset at p. 6, footnote.

² See below, under date 21st June, 1699.

³ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 62.

⁴ Cooke, *Address on Increase of Poor Tax*, pp. 10-13.

⁵ Cary, *Account of Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol*, p. 17.

selection of teachers economy outweighed efficiency. The entry of John Jayne's appointment¹ is especially significant, for as Clerk he would have to write it himself, and it therefore serves as a specimen of his attainments. Other responsible members of the Staff were often given gratuities at the end of the financial year, but only once (in 1813) was a bonus of two guineas voted to the schoolmaster for good conduct.²

The renewal of orders for education implies that it sometimes lapsed altogether. Latimer says that about 1707 it was limited to twenty boys in the Workhouse. There is no sign of this in the Court Books, but a contract made with Seth Shute for the employment of the boys stipulated that twenty of them should be allowed six hours a week for schooling.³ As for the complaint of the Rev. Arthur Bedford, Vicar of Temple in 1707, that of 232 poor boys in his parish only three were being taught by the Guardians,⁴ the statistics would be more useful if one knew how many of the 232 boys were in the Workhouse. It is both unrecorded and unlikely that the Guardians ever pretended or intended to provide schools for the out-poor.

In the maintenance of discipline Cary reports no less success than in the employment venture; there was some trouble at first in getting the old people to submit to the rules, but the children very quickly settled in and developed "a love to their Labour."⁵ He admits that the Workhouse was supplied with a whipping-post and stocks, but says they "never had occasion to make use of either." Without such coercion, "Among 300 Persons there is neither Cursing nor Swearing, nor prophane Language, to be heard, though many of them were bred up in all manner of Vices."⁶

Perhaps this picture of peace is coloured by idealism, for the Court Books record several cases of the use of the whipping-post before 1700. The culprits number fifteen between 20th October, 1698, and 11th March, 1702; they are usually runaways or

¹ See below, under date 12th June, 1718.

² *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 8th April, 1813.

³ Latimer, *Annals of Bristol, Eighteenth Century*, p. 72.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 80.

⁵ Cary, *Account of Proceedings of the Corporation of Bristol*, pp. 11, 17.

⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 20.

petty thieves.¹ Johnson plainly found the children less amenable than Cary, for his verdict on Workhouses for the young is, that "as schools, nothing can be more shocking, except a gaol."²

Discipline was maintained primarily by the Master, upon whom a standard as high as Cary's was enjoined by the Rules.³ Cases were referred by him to the Committee of Correction, in later years merged in the Committee of Expenditure. The ultimate authority over staff and inmates was the Court of Guardians, which could sentence to whipping or to confinement in the "pens" or in "Purgatory," a place supplied with locks and chains.⁴

The Master and Matron or Mistress, parallel in administrative and disciplinary authority during the years when each ruled over a separate Workhouse, differed ever more widely in status after the union of the two establishments in 1709. This event reduced the Mistress to a subordinate position, almost that of housekeeper, whereas the Master's importance was increased as the distribution of much of the out-relief was entrusted to him. Alterations in the salary scale are significant: the first Mistress received £10 a year with residence, but in 1717 this had dropped to £6, and not until 1758-9 did it rise to £20. Except for gratuities annually in 1744-53, the next increase was in 1777, to £30, and this was still the figure in 1834. On the other hand, the Master's salary, after remaining at £30 as late as 1758-9, increased in later years by leaps and bounds. One leap, from £70 to £150, occurred in June 1813; the rearrangement in 1824, when his salary was unaltered but his duties divided, amounts to another leap, although lessened by the change to non-residence. In 1834 the Master was receiving £250. He had gratuities at least as many and as large as the Matron's until the abolition of this custom in 1822.⁵

Something can be gathered from the records as to how far the Guardians succeeded in obtaining the qualifications they sought for these very responsible posts. The first Mistress of the New Workhouse, Mrs. Cooke, with her disturbing "height

¹ See below, under dates 20th October and 8th March, 1698; 16th April and 11th March, 1702; 29th December, 1699; 21st August, 1700; 18th November, 1701.

² Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 129.

³ See below, under date 9th October, 1817.

⁴ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 112.

⁵ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*.

and fury" of spirit,¹ may be set over against Mary Atlay, whose virtues inspired with equally generous gratitude her employers and her *protégée* and successor, Elizabeth Duncan.² Similar appreciation was shown by the Corporation in pensioning one Master, Innall, for his "laudable and faithful services," when he retired in 1798.³ The highest mark of recognition bestowed on a Master was that recorded in 1831.⁴ Lesser officers were sometimes less appreciatively treated; for example, Richard Leadbetter had once acted as Master when a Master died, and had received a bonus for this, as well as commendations and an increase of salary on other occasions; yet in June, 1765, his pay was reduced to 7s. 6d. a week until he should be able to work.⁵

Little is said of the Chaplain, beyond the short list of his duties given in 1817.⁶ Until March, 1767, when the first Chaplain was appointed and voted a salary of £20 a year, prayers in the House had apparently been conducted by a layman, sometimes an inmate.⁷ The Hospital stands so close to St. Peter's Church that it needed no separate services except for the sick and infirm. The concession to Nonconformists, that they might go to their own place of worship provided they brought to the Master a certificate of their regular attendance signed by its minister,⁸ is an interesting comment on the strength of Nonconformity in Bristol. Johnson says that in 1826 more than half the Guardians were Nonconformists, because the electors preferred to choose them, as they had not to serve parish office as well.⁹

The silence of the records suggests that the Chaplain did not exert the influence in the House which his office made possible. No recognition of his work appears in the Court Books; the only thanks voted by the Court for services in the cause of religion and morals among the inmates are addressed to the curate of St. Peter's in 1798, and to some Nonconformists whose visits to

¹ See below, under date 8th December, 1698.

² *Ibid.*, under date 8th April, 1819.

³ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 9th August, 1798.

⁴ See below, under date 13th October, 1831.

⁵ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 13th June, 1765.

⁶ See below, under date 9th October, 1817.

⁷ *Ibid.*, under date 11th October, 1759.

⁸ *Ibid.*, Rules for Master, under date 9th October, 1817.

⁹ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 139.

the sick wards in 1819 led to the granting of permission for Nonconformist services in the House under certain conditions.¹

The good government of a Workhouse was dependent not only on its staff, but on its frequent, regular and thorough inspection by the Guardians. Each Bristol Workhouse had its own Committee for the purpose as soon as it was established; but as the Court met at the Mint, the Committee of that House had much the less inconvenient task and was consequently the more assiduous. A tendency to neglect the inspection of the New Workhouse was the first reason given for its amalgamation with the Mint.² The task of the Visitors was lightened in 1700 by the adoption of a rota, but the regularity and frequency of visits were insisted upon by repeated resolutions. In 1719 daily inspection was ordered,³ but from 1743 an exception was made of Sundays and Fridays, and in 1812 the regulation minimum of visits was reduced to two a week.⁴ The detailed instructions given in 1812 as to the routine of these visits show the importance attached to their thoroughness and to safeguards against oppression.

The Visiting Guardians seem to have functioned conscientiously as a rule, for the Court Books provide plenty of evidence of their activities: suggestions for repairs or alterations to buildings or for re-organization of some department, charges of neglect on the part of the staff, supervision and encouragement of the experiments in manufacture. But there must have been general and persistent slackness in the years before the economy campaign of 1784-6, or the abuses and confusion the reformers found could not have occurred, much less have continued for months.⁵ This seems to be the only instance of regular neglect of inspection.

APPRENTICESHIP.

For the children, apprenticeship was the usual avenue of exit from the Workhouse, and, indeed, from the tutelage of the Guardians. The exhaustive and careful report of the Committee appointed to examine into this question in 1697⁶ testifies to its

¹ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 12th April, 1798, and 4th October, 1819.

² See below, under date 22nd November, 1699.

³ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 22nd November, 1719.

⁴ See below, under dates 9th February, 1743; 13th August, 1812.

⁵ See above, p. 16

⁶ See below, under date 24th March, 1697.

importance in the eyes of the Corporation, an importance only to be expected in an age when "charity to children . . . meant enabling them to earn their living at the earliest possible moment."¹ Hence the insistence upon the selection of masters who were able, honest men "of some sort of employment or faculty," lest the children should learn nothing to make them self-supporting.

The records of the Court on this point are scanty, but in the cases mentioned the Court compares favourably with other Poor Law authorities of the period, which are often accused of apprenticing their children, regardless of their future prospects, in situations where they became merely cheap drudges. Among six apprenticeships mentioned in the Court Books between 1697 and 1707 the master in two cases is a naval captain; one is a blacksmith, one a shipwright; one, a joiner, takes a girl apprentice, and one is not described.² It was "from the most humane motives," as Johnson said, that the Corporation refused to apprentice any of its children to chimney-sweeps.³ The wholesale demands for pauper apprentices in the days of the Industrial Revolution seem always to have been received by the Bristol Guardians with careful consideration.⁴

The Corporation did not wash its hands of its apprentices with the signing of the indentures. Its twofold aim is expressed in the Bye-laws of 1825 for the Committee of Management, bidding it "enforce as far as it can with propriety, during the period of servitude, submission to the Master and kindness to the Apprentice." Hence the proceedings taken by the Corporation in 1786⁵ against a master and his wife for ill-treatment of a girl apprentice were made public as a warning that the Corporation "is Determined to prosecute all Persons who ill-use" or neglect pauper apprentices. There are traces of a similar care in the case of the babies of "the Family" who had been boarded out; for example, in the 1817 rules for the Matron and in the prosecution of Hannah Linterne.⁶

The most noticeable instance of this after-care work is the

¹ Marshall, *The English Poor in the Eighteenth Century*, p. 24.

² See below, under dates 23rd February, 1697; 1st October, 1701.

³ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 40.

⁴ See below, under dates 9th June, 1796; 12th October, 1797; 8th February, 1798.

⁵ *Ibid.*, under date 10th August, 1786.

⁶ *Ibid.*, under dates 9th October, 1817; 13th August, 1801.

visit undertaken by the Deputy-Governor, William Stock, in 1816 to all the factories where the Corporation had placed out apprentices during the few years preceding.¹ In view of the conditions of factory apprenticeship prevailing at the period, it would be interesting to have his report, but it is not entered in the Court Books. A hint of its contents is given by Johnson, who probably heard it presented: he says that it was "not in every respect agreeable to the wishes of the Guardians," but that Mr. Stock found no case of actual ill-treatment. He was allowed to question the children by themselves.²

As regards the apprentices' "submission to the Master," it was no doubt with a view to their future good behaviour that "John Lord Bishop of Bristol" in 1708, made his donation of £50 to the Corporation, to be laid out in Bibles to give to the children when they were apprenticed;³ and that the Committee of Management was bidden to keep up this practice. The prompt action of the Guardians when complaints were made in 1705 against several of their girl apprentices⁴ also shows their sense of responsibility in the matter.

During the middle years of the period, from 1707 to 1795, the subject of apprenticeship practically disappears from the Court Books. Probably the business was so constant and straightforward that it was left to one of the permanent Committees. The demand for child labour consequent upon the Industrial Revolution apparently made it possible for the Corporation to insist upon apprenticeship for all children above a certain age for whom relief was asked. The age limit for relief, fixed at five years in 1797, stood at eight years at the end of the period.

A change of attitude on the part of masters about the year 1820 gave the Guardians much difficulty. An Act of Anne's reign, to which the records refer in 1704,⁵ gave Guardians power to compel shipowners to employ pauper apprentices, according to the size of their vessels, but Johnson affirms that in Bristol this power had been left idle because there was no lack of masters who would take the boys without premiums. However,

¹ See below, under date 12th December, 1816.

² Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 40. He gives the date as 1818.

³ See below, under date 9th September, 1708.

⁴ *Ibid.*, under dates 4th September and 13th November, 1705.

⁵ *Ibid.*, under date 13th April, 1704.

for some time before he wrote (1820) it had become difficult to persuade masters to take them even with premiums, so the powers of the old Act were revived in 1818. This scarcely had the desired effect, for in eleven out of nineteen cases up to 1st January, 1820, the shipowners preferred to refuse the pauper apprentices, pay a £10 fine, and engage country lads. The Guardians, of course, objected strongly both to this addition to those legally settled in the city and to the rejection of their own boys, especially as the offenders paid no rates on their most valuable property, their ships. The end of the struggle is not recorded.¹

OUT-RELIEF.

(1) *Permanent and Casual.*

The payment of out-relief is a branch of the Corporation's work of which the Court Books say little; yet the statistics given by Johnson for the years 1800-1822, and by the annual printed accounts to 1834, show that until 1827 the average number relieved thus each year was over ten times the number in the Hospital; after that, the tide of out-relief began to ebb. Inmates cost on an average about four times as much per head as the out-poor, but the figure for the latter loses both in size and significance by the inclusion of casual cases of widely varying demands. When separately accounted, permanent cases show an average payment of £7 16s. 9d. a year. Inmates of unendowed almshouses were eligible for an allowance.

Emergency relief, within narrow limits,² might be granted by Pay Guardians, but all applications were submitted to the permanent Committee first appointed in 1697. Certain classes of applicants were "discouraged," under the 1825 Bye-laws: occupiers of houses of over £10 value; deserted wives who refused to give information by which the Corporation might catch their runaway husbands; and men who struck for wages. This last clause was published in the local newspapers during a shipwrights' strike in July, 1826.

The Committee of Relief, *alias* the Committee for hearing the complaints of the Poor, was bidden also to enforce the liability of relatives to contribute towards maintenance. Such contributions are a very small item in the annual accounts when

¹ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, pp. 64-67.

² See below, under date 9th October, 1817.

these are available; but it is probable that the protest of the Court in granting an annuity to Elizabeth Hedges in 1756¹ had the same motive as this Bye-law, for annuities had been granted without reservation several times before, though never to the second generation.

The Bristol Guardians, unlike many neighbouring authorities, generally used newspaper advertisements only to deter, not to detect, fathers who left their families chargeable. They inserted notices of their prosecution of such men. In 1710 the Corporation refused to grant an annuity to a woman when her husband was found to be alive.² Maintenance was sometimes paid for lunatics, and frequently for illegitimate children, although in this case orders were far more numerous than payments. Johnson said that in one year (1825) thirty-six reputed fathers absconded, and that poor men rarely paid maintenance orders. The figures which he gives show a steady increase from 1812 to 1819, except for the year 1815.³ Apparently the rise continued until 1824-5, the "peak year" for this item in the printed accounts of the period, when £1,289 1s. 2d. was received in maintenance. This may indicate, not growing immorality, but a long-needed improvement in coercive machinery; for Johnson states that the Guardians relieved 154 illegitimate children born in the years 1813-15, and that for only fifteen of these was any payment received.

Several cases recorded show that applicants might contribute to their own maintenance by buying an annuity from the Corporation, but the payment has usually the tone of a bargain rather than a demand. Funeral expenses, however, the Guardians would not pay for anyone, if his own goods were sufficient to cover the cost.⁴

Some special grants recorded—the payment of arrears of rent or of a prisoner's debts, the establishment of a young man in business, the recovery of property detained from poor owners, the provision of special medical benefits—illustrate the Guardians' efforts to prevent pauperism or to cure it in an early stage.

Bristol was already well endowed with charities when the Corporation of the Poor came into being. This fact both lessened

¹ See below, under dates 8th April and 10th June, 1756.

² *Ibid.*, under date 29th December, 1710.

³ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 59.

⁴ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 10th October, 1751.

and increased the difficulties of that body, inasmuch as it had less demand for its funds, but must guard against the overlapping of supplies. The Corporation made use of existing resources, such as Queen Elizabeth's Hospital¹ and the Loan Fund,² part of which was specifically for "setting the poor on work." Over other charities—for example, John Worgan's bequest in 1700,³ and the profits of the fairs in Temple Parish and St. James⁴—it claimed a controlling authority, legally supported by a clause in the Tiverton Act which ordained that all charitable gifts since 12th May, 1698, should be handed over to the new Corporation. This clause was repealed in 1714. In some cases St. James's Parish secured the return of bequests over which the Guardians had assumed control;⁵ and in two parishes bread charities were administered jointly by parish and Corporation.⁶ A wish to co-ordinate supplies may be one motive for the occasional enquiries of the Guardians into the state of parochial and city charities.⁷

The success of precautions against fraud can scarcely be judged from the Court Books. Permanent cases were easier to test than casuals: the reformers of 1784-6, who achieved a wholesale reduction of the numbers in the Workhouse and on the casual pay-list by applying a work test to the able-bodied, found only twelve impostors on the permanent list.⁸ The Guardians in 1708, and again in 1714, had tried the expedient of compelling those receiving relief to wear on the "Shoulder or Sleife of the Outward Garment" a badge of "Roman Letters Cut out of Red Cloth";⁹ but this method of checking imposture was so keenly disliked that enforcement was difficult. The appointment of an investigator in 1748 was apparently more successful; but Isaac Cooke, Menlove and Johnson all agree that for the able-bodied the work test is the most useful. The inmates in 1785, "when work is mentioned to them, . . .

¹ See below, under dates 27th September, 1698; 13th February, 1700-1; 8th March, 1704.

² *Ibid.*, under date 13th February, 1700-1.

³ *Ibid.*, under date 18th September, 1700.

⁴ *Ibid.*, under date 14th December, 1709.

⁵ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, pp. 55, 56.

⁶ See below, under date 4th October, 1698.

⁷ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 20th April, 1703.

⁸ Cooke, *Address on Increase of Poor Tax*, p. 15.

⁹ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 10th February, 1708; 14th October, 1714.

would rather go out and steal.”¹ In 1825 the rule “No work, no relief,” was revived, “suitable” work being offered to all who applied on the ground of unemployment.²

Like every other Poor Law authority of the period, the Corporation was very anxious both to prevent “intruders” from receiving its benefits, and to keep down as far as possible the number of such intruders acquiring legal settlement in the city. Hence the petition of the Guardians to the City Council in 1707, against appointing strangers to annual offices, thereby qualifying them for settlement. Hence also the Corporation’s indignation in 1820 at the shipowners’ obstinate preference for country apprentices.³ Another method of gaining settlement was by paying rates for a house. This made the Guardians on the alert for newcomers in the city, especially in the cheaper houses. As early as 1698, elaborate recommendations were made to prevent their entrance, unless they were armed with the certificate of their settlement, which enabled the Corporation to return them to their own parish if they became chargeable. Single women “living at their own hands,” as especially liable to poverty, were especially unwelcome settlers.⁴ The Court’s order to its collectors in 1761 reveals that landlords and tenants of cheap houses resorted to trickery in order to gain settlement for the tenant.⁵ Another abuse is alleged in a notice published by the Corporation in 1785: churchwardens in neighbouring districts paid rent and rates of Bristol houses in the names of their own paupers in order to transfer them to Bristol.⁶

Mr. Hobhouse’s letter to the Corporation in 1774⁷ is an outspoken commentary on the moral and legal effect of the Settlement Laws upon parish authorities. Litigation, even when straightforward, was slow. An appeal against a removal order was almost a matter of course, an adjournment of the appeal apparently equally so. As an example, all such cases recorded in the Doggett Book of Bristol Quarter Sessions for 1741 to 1748 were adjourned at least twice. Thus the lawyers were the winners, the unsettled paupers the worst losers.

¹ Cooke, *Address on Increase of Poor Tax*, pp. 7–8.

² T. Menlove, in *Felix Farley’s Bristol Journal*, 18th June, 1825.

³ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 39.

⁴ See below, under date 21st November, 1700.

⁵ *Ibid.*, under date 9th April, 1761.

⁶ All Bristol newspapers, 30th April, 1785.

⁷ See below, under date 26th February, 1774.

The treatment of returned settlers *en route* to their own parishes can best be gathered from the account book of the officer who escorted them. The book from which extracts are given¹ details the removal of 68 men, 147 women, and 169 children during nine years, at a total cost of £646 os. 10d. At one period, the accounts show a very similar standard of living for the officer and his charge. Later, the paupers receive a fixed allowance of 2s. 6d. a day for food for an adult, 1s. for a child. Fifty years before, the regulation allowance had been 2s. a day for the officer and 1s. a day for the pauper.²

Only two entries in this account book can be construed in support of the charge of cruelty often brought against parish authorities for removing paupers during illness. In 1812 a woman being taken to Bradford, Wilts, was given a glass of rum and water, "she being very ill";³ and in 1815, on a journey to Henbury, comes the note, "Eliza Lee appeared to be in Labour. I had a coach for her for which I was paid 6/6 by the Overseer of Henbury." Against these cases must be set the provision of inside seats in the coach for William Davies (when expediency may have been the motive, "he being subject to Fitts"),⁴ and for Catherine Bossom, for whose journey to Dunster the officer "Paid at the White Hart in Broad Street, Self Outside Old Woman in - - - - - 16.0
9.0."⁵

(2) *Vagrants.*

By removing settlers, Guardians did much to qualify them for the advanced class of vagrants; for their own parish was no more anxious to receive them than any other, and yet returned settlers who left their parish again became legally rogues and vagabonds, the equals of the incorrigible beggar. They had then little resource but to act up to their legal character.

The non-chronic class of vagrant, styled "idle and disorderly," which included men who abandoned their families to public charity, rarely appears in these records, but Johnson declared in 1820 that men who travel in search of work often "marry as often as their inclination prompts them," and leave the first wife

¹ See below, under dates 16th July, 1810; 23rd March, 1816.

² *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 8th December, 1768.

³ *Settlement Officer's Account Book*, 4th November, 1812.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 10th May, 1815.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 20th July, 1812.

or wives chargeable to the parish when they move on. Hence he does not advocate fluidity of labour.¹ A newspaper report of the conviction of two men in 1818 states that the Guardians are now relieving nearly fifty deserted families.² It was probably to check this epidemic of desertion that a man was sent to the House of Correction for a month for merely threatening to leave his family chargeable to St. Mary Redcliff.³

The records bear ample witness to the energy and ingenuity of both sides in the continuous duel between authority and vagrancy. Special precautions are taken at fair times,⁴ the swarming season of professional beggars and idlers; a staff is permanently engaged to arrest vagrants, and rewards are sometimes offered to the public for its help;⁵ the Court of Guardians in its early days unhesitatingly sentenced convicted vagrants to three years in Bridewell.⁶ The energy of its start was not sustained: on the strength of the provisional clause inserted in the sentences, "unless the Court shall otherwise determine," the culprit was often released after a few days. Latimer suggests that one motive was economy in maintenance costs. Certainly various arrangements made by the Guardians concerning Bridewell show that up to the year 1704 they assume to some extent the charge of that "receptacle" for vagrants; and a change of policy is implied in the City Council's complaint to Parliament in 1717 that the Corporation refuses to relieve or deal with any poor not settled in Bristol.⁷

The increasing virulence of vagrancy in the early nineteenth century can be judged from the Bristol records, as well as from the evidence of the contractor for the removal of vagrants from Middlesex. He stated before a House of Commons Committee that in 1808-20 he had removed over 6,500 persons to Bristol alone.⁸ Menlove, Deputy-Governor in 1825, quotes extracts from the Relief Book to show that the Guardians, like less responsible

¹ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 73.

² *Bristol Mirror*, 30th July, 1818.

³ *Ibid.*, 22nd September, 1818.

⁴ See below, under date 23rd January, 1700-1.

⁵ *Ibid.*, under dates 14th August, 1788; 12th December, 1805.

⁶ *Ibid.*, under dates 22nd and 26th January, 1697.

⁷ *Ibid.*, under date 15th May, 1717.

⁸ Quoted by Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, pp. 159-160.

citizens, sometimes feebly took the line of least resistance and paid vagrants to keep away.¹

In vagrancy cases the frequent impossibility of investigation invited imposture. The methods of the warfare between the Bristol Corporation and the vagrants are revealed by a dispute with the Cumberland Justices in 1829. These gentlemen had publicly accused Bristol and Gloucester of deliberately and repeatedly passing to Scotland vagrants not settled there. A man named Stone was alleged to be the chief agent in the business in Bristol. A Glasgow sailor, who had been stranded in Bristol, reported that he was "passed" from there with twenty others, six of whom he was sure were not Scots, although they had sworn that they were. He found that most of them had been passed along that road often before, and that passmasters who knew them gave or lent them money to slip away and go back. The Justices complained that the same people were thus passed from Bristol several times in a year. Of a party of twenty-five due to arrive at Penrith on 10th September, only one got so far.

Bristol's defence was: (1) Stone was a salaried official with no capitation fees or perquisites. (2) The Guardians, having long suspected that some vagrants were shamming Scotch, had acted in consultation with "our friend Mr. McAdam, the celebrated roadmaker."² All applicants who claimed Scottish nationality were sent to the agent of the Caledonian Society in Bristol, and only those who passed his test of their claim were sent to Scotland. (3) An examination of the Pass Books of 1826-9 does seem to show re-passing of the same individuals; but the Corporation pleads in excuse the strong national resemblance of Scots, the fact that so many bear the same name, and that those in question swore to a different birthplace and history each time.³

Irish vagrants were a particular pest concentrated in Bristol and Liverpool, the ports for southern and northern Ireland. Bristol evidence on the subject is therefore useful. The extent of the trouble can be reckoned from the accounts of the year 1759, in conjunction with the rates for the passage fixed by the magistrates in 1744. Transport to Ireland was further regulated by an Act of 17 George II, compelling ships' masters to take on each passage one vagrant for every twenty tons burthen. The

¹ T. Menlove, in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 23rd July, 1825.

² A member of Bristol Corporation of the Poor, 1814-18.

³ *Bristol Mirror*, 28th November, 5th December, 1829. The letters between Cumberland and Bristol are dated July-September.

proportion was increased a year later to one for every seven tons in the case of Bristol, but the distress of later Guardians over the Act of 1744 shows that the amendment had been forgotten. In 1819, when the number of vessels trading to Cork and Waterford was held legally liable only for 450 such passengers a year, 621 Irish vagrants were passed to Bristol in three months.¹

Most of these were labourers who came over in the summer for farm work; the *Bristol Mirror* in 1829 reported the arrival of 300 families in one week.² It was reported that many left their wages with an agent in London, to be sent home after them, in order that they might get passed back to Ireland as paupers. An Act of 1819 allowed the Irish to be passed if they became chargeable, whether technically vagrants or not; Johnson says that they thereupon "went home to see their friends"; the cost to the Corporation accordingly rose from £310 8s. 5d. in 1818 to an average of £786 in the next six years, reaching £1,539 15s. 5d. in the "peak year," 1822.³

The legal decision that the Guardians had no power to set these men to work, even pending their removal, left the Corporation helpless. Appeals to Parliament only produced the reply that the Irish trade was sufficient compensation for any loss to Bristol.⁴ It may be to demonstrate a grievance that Irish vagrants are separately accounted for in the balance sheets after 1823; their expenses always total more than those of other "Journeys and Removals," although they had no escort. In one year (1823-4) the Irish item is over four times as great as the other.

Bristol's proximity to Ireland brought it also the difficulty of repatriating Irish regiments in and after the various wars of the period. The War Office only recognized its liability for this work after much pressure from the Guardians, who had twice to take matters into their own hands to rid the city of the "discharged Irish Soldiers and Sailors who are lying about."

FINANCE.

Finance was necessarily a factor, sometimes the decisive factor, in most of the Guardians' problems. Until 1758 they were constantly hampered by the rigidity of the Acts under

¹ Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 51.

² 30th May, 1829.

³ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, pp. 161-162.

⁴ *Bristol Mirror*, 8th May, 1819.

which they worked. The original Act fixed a maximum rate of £2,375 16s. 5d.; in 1714 this was raised to £3,500, in 1745 to £4,500; not until 1758 did it dawn upon Parliament that the volume of pauperism was not a constant, and that the lengthy and expensive process of procuring extending Acts of Parliament added unnecessarily to the difficulties of the Corporation in the hardest times. Adjustable financial machinery was then set up by the Act of 1758.

In the crises of those early years both the City Council and private individuals came generously to the rescue: the Council's loans amounted to £1,850 by 1712, and the difficulty it had in obtaining payment in 1720-4 seems an unfair return. Loans from Guardians between 1696 and 1784 total £3,826,¹ not counting those from the Treasurer or the unnamed amounts advanced by the Pay Guardians in 1697 in lieu of a rate.

One good result of these money difficulties was that they forced the Corporation to attempt to analyse their causes, as the basis of its appeal to City or Parliament. It is interesting to find the decay of manufactures mentioned as early as 1713. War naturally affected seriously a city dependent on commerce more than industry.² It is curious, therefore, that during the years 1799 to 1808 the Poor Rate in Bristol dropped from about £16,300 to £10,000.³

Rate-collecting was a problem which the Guardians never mastered, even when the Tiverton Act had reduced the defaulting Churchwardens to obedience. Rates were not due from collectors until six months after the assessment; hence every Treasurer had to make considerable advances for current expenses: in 1823 they amounted to £10,411 8s. od. The Bristol Poor Act of 1822 tried to reform this by instituting a quarterly rate, and collectors who were paid a commission of 4½d. on £1. But the Act started clogged with arrears amounting to £16,826 4s. od., accumulated since 1817; and another £13,000 fell due in March, 1823, before the new machinery had got into its swing. Moreover, the published accounts for eleven consecutive years⁴ show that the collectors succeeded only three times in getting in over 50 per cent. of the rate during the year; sometimes their harvest fell

¹ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor.*

² See below, under dates 7th January, 1712; 26th February, 1713; 19th January, 1758.

³ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor.*

⁴ In Bristol newspapers, 1823-34.

below 40 per cent. In fact, the Corporation's income from arrears is nearly always greater than that from the current year's rate. Unfair assessments are partly to blame: apparently no attempt at revision was made for over a hundred years. Yet when the Corporation proposed in 1822 to have assessments made every seven years, the ratepayers strongly objected to the expense.

The bane of the rate-collector was the tenement of under £10 rent. Its prosperous landlord¹ was not legally liable for the rates; its occupier had not the money. The number of such tenements was greatest in St. James's Parish (918) and St. Augustine's (557); but in St. Philip and St. Jacob their annual value was £1,622, and in each of five other parishes it was over £1,000. There was fierce opposition to the Guardians' proposal to make the landlords liable for the rates of such houses, but the 1822 Act left the old arrangement in force only in quarterly tenancies.

GUARDIANS.

No factor was more essential to the success of any system of poor relief than securing the right type of administrator. The eighteenth-century Guardian worked unsupervised and almost unchecked by any central authority; in Bristol the Court of Guardians was by statute practically exempt from magisterial interference, and had itself several magisterial powers.

The complaint against Guardians of this period in most districts is twofold: that annual change of officers makes impossible the necessary acquaintance with applicants and with policy; and that men with experience and leisure for public work refuse such an exacting office, leaving it to overseers, "not one in twenty of whom is adequate to the performance."² In view of these charges, evidence as to the length of service of Bristol Guardians mentioned in these records, and as to their experience in other civic posts, has been added in an Appendix.

The incorporating Act established a period of four years' service, half the number of Guardians being elected every two years. Continuity of policy was further secured by the Act of 1745, which provided that every year six of the preceding year's Assistants should serve again, together with six newly chosen.

¹ An advertisement opportunely published in 1822 offered for sale fifty such houses on Redcliff Hill, "always tenanted," and promised the purchaser an immediate return of "nearly 13 per cent."

² Sir Francis Eden, *State of the Poor*, vol. i, p. 349.

Johnson implies that policy did nevertheless vacillate, at least in the matter of employment, which new Guardians often changed to install their pet manufacture.¹ The evidence of the Court Books does not support this, for Guardians were elected in April, and out of twelve changes in employment recorded, seven took place in February or March.

There were many Bristol Guardians who did not confine their services to the legal minimum. The Act of 1718 entitled any man to exemption from the office if he had already served within the six preceding years, but this right was rarely claimed, and terms of eight, nine and ten years' service are as frequent after 1718 as before. The three chief offices in the Corporation were those of Governor, Deputy-Governor and Treasurer, and there are many instances of long or repeated tenure of each. The author of the *Transactions* was a Guardian of twelve years' standing—three in the ranks, three as Assistant, three as Deputy-Governor and three as Governor. Another Governor² served for five consecutive years, another³ for seven years; Robert Wilcox was Deputy-Governor nine times between 1732 and 1744, Richard Webb five times between 1787 and 1797, Thomas Batchelor four times between 1798 and 1806. It is natural to assume that these men, too, had learned their work in the ranks before they were elected to special responsibility; they would therefore acquire, if not a professional outlook, an expert knowledge. The special need for experience in the Treasurer's office led the 1822 amenders to make it permanent; but before that, one man had held the post for eight consecutive years, his predecessor for thirteen, and two Vaughans for a total of seventeen years.

The work of a Guardian was, however, arduous and often thankless,⁴ and it was necessary to enforce both its acceptance and its performance by fines. From 1718 to 1831, the statutory fine for refusing to serve as Guardian was £10; for refusing the higher offices of Assistant, Treasurer, Deputy-Governor or Governor the scale was £15, £25, £25, £50. The Act of 1831 doubled these amounts. The £10 penalty was exacted⁵ even

¹ Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 24.

² John Pinney, Governor 1796–1801.

³ Thomas Stock, Governor 1815–17, 1827–32; he was also Deputy-Governor 1812–15.

⁴ Isaac Cooke, the reformer who instituted a work test, reports a plot to murder him. *Address on Increase of Poor Tax*, p. 14.

⁵ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 28th April, 1828.

from Robert Gould, a clerk to Messrs. Daniel, elected in 1828, for whom service must have been an impossibility and the fine a hardship. J. L. McAdam, the roadmaker, was refused exemption when he pleaded that he was a Justice of the Peace for Ayr and Deputy-Lieutenant of that county: he was present only once during his four years.

Custom and common sense authorized certain exemptions: physical disability, removal outside the city liberties, the "Tyburn ticket,"¹ and occupations held not liable to parochial office,² were all allowed by the Court as pleas. Only one man, John Givers, elected in 1826 for St. Thomas's Ward, is excused on the ground that he is over sixty years old; only one alien, Diederick Meyerhoff, elected in 1772, is exempted "by a clause in his naturalisation act." Perhaps it was by their own wish that other foreigners' names remained on the roll. Timothy Bryant, who held a contract for supplying bread to St. Peter's Hospital at the time of his election in 1826, was allowed to cancel the election and so keep the contract.

The Corporation secured the assiduity of its members by using its statutory power of fining them for non-attendance.³ As Committee work and Workhouse visitation grew, and General Courts declined, this change was reflected in the scale of fines: the original 5s. fine for absence from a General Court was applied to Visiting Committees instead, and a 2s. 6d. fine levied for General Courts and other Committees. The only excuses accepted were sickness and absence from Bristol; anyone who sent either excuse and was seen in town on the day of meeting was fined double. Subordinate Committees, whose numbers varied from time to time, lightened the work almost from the first, especially as the quorum was usually small (in two cases, three out of twenty members). In 1697 a rota plan was adopted for the Committee for hearing complaints, and in 1700 for the visiting of the Workhouses. This was greatly elaborated in 1825 into a scheme comprising all committee work.

Most hard-worked of all the members of the Corporation was the Deputy-Governor. It was apparently about the middle of

¹ A certificate that the holder had secured the conviction of a felon. Exemption on this plea was allowed in 1746 and 1768, but refused in 1830.

² *e.g.*, an apothecary (1750); a practising barrister (1822).

³ Johnson says that so much time was wasted in arguing over fines that it would have been better to abolish the whole system (*Transactions*, pp. 67, 68). Frequently it is the only business recorded at a meeting of the Court.

the eighteenth century that he became practically head of the executive ; for in 1766 Joseph Flower was voted £75 for taking the office a second year, and in 1768 Henry Burgum retired from it with the words entered in a Committee book :—

“ Henry Burgum
for the last time.
And if you ever catch me at it again
I'll gee you my mother for an old man.”¹

One explanation of this outburst may be found in the statistics of the Municipal Report of 1835, that in one year the Deputy-Governor had given 500 attendances, some of six or eight hours. This accounts for the more frequent changes in the office : there are 114 Deputy-Governors during the period, and only 82 Governors and 77 Treasurers.

In quality the Bristol Corporation, though of course subject to variations, maintained on the whole the good lead given by Cary and his contemporaries. Its financial methods² show that at least some of its members must always have been men of substance. In a petition to Parliament in 1755 they boast that they, and not the oligarchic City Council, are “ the representative body of the inhabitants of Bristol ” ; they therefore act as the city's spokesman in business outside their own province.³ The Guardians' office, then as now, was regarded by some as an apprenticeship to public work.⁴ Mayors, Sheriffs, Masters of the Society of Merchant Venturers, appear frequently on the list of Guardians ; at least six Guardians had been or were to be Members of Parliament for the city. Beaven remarks that of the Governors in the years 1696–1745, 1766–75 and 1784–91, only nine did not pass the mayoral chair.⁵ The Court's registers show many names which are a part of Bristol's commercial and civic history : numerous Eltons, early generations of Frys, Fishers, various Gibbises, Christopher Thomas, the original W. D. and H. O. Wills, Henry and John Hobhouse, Tyndall of Tyndall's Park.

¹ Quoted by Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 72.

² See above, p. 32.

³ *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 25th February, 1755. The subject of the petition is a Bill for establishing a nightly watch.

⁴ Cf. Johnson, *Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 68.

⁵ Beaven, *Bristol Lists*, p. 120.

One of the few charges made against the Guardians is that of political partisanship, which occurs in a broadsheet of 1710.¹ One period of continued slackness is revealed by the reforms of the Isaac Cooke *régime* in 1784-6. Three incidents concern in varying degree the charge of dishonesty. The first is the crime commemorated in 1733 by the inscription still above the Court Room door: "Richard Baggs, an unworthy Member of this Corporation, having defrauded the Poor and being detected of the same, paid the sum of £200 for the benefit of the said Poor." The embezzlement of this eighteenth-century Judas is less surprising than his election as Guardian, seeing that in 1732 he had been sentenced to a £200 fine, imprisonment and the pillory for another offence.² The second charge is implied in the 1776 bye-law against giving excessive orders for goods to members of the Corporation. Several items in the 1758-9 accounts are bought from Guardians,³ but perhaps the practice was not then abused. The third charge is made by a Guardian, Zachariah Cartwright, in the *Bristol Journal* of 1822,⁴ against the use of fines for the expenses of the annual Shirehampton dinner to tenants and other official guests. The fines were only used to supplement the customary subscriptions, but the Act of 1696 allotted them to the use of the poor. Cartwright's protest seems to have had no effect.

From the records of the period as a whole, there is no doubt that the experiment of 1696 justified itself, although it did not succeed permanently in its immediate object, employing the poor. It raised the status of Poor Law administration, and enlisted in it many people very different in type from the usual parish overseer of the period. The city owed much to the zeal of such men in a work "at variance with their personal pursuits and interests."⁵ The average citizen was evidently rather indifferent to the question of public relief until it touched his pocket: it is the ratepayers who are to blame for the chief blot on the Corporation's record in these years.

The twentieth century has not yet found the answer to all the Poor Law problems it has inherited from the eighteenth. The

¹ Latimer, *Annals of Bristol, Eighteenth Century*, p. 81.

² *Ibid.*, p. 148.

³ See below, pp. 107-108, footnotes.

⁴ 3rd August, 1822.

⁵ "X. Y. Z." in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 17th February, 1821.

machinery of rate-collecting has been remodelled successfully ; the relief of chronic poverty has been adjusted to modern standards of living ; hereditary pauperism has been practically conquered. But all the preventive and remedial measures of modern times have not solved the problem of the able-bodied unemployed, the most serious which confronted Cary and his successors.

The records in this volume have, therefore, a modern vitality, as well as a human interest, which may make them useful to some whose previous acquaintance with the subject has not been that of the historical student. For this reason, this introductory sketch includes a good deal which is perhaps outside the scope of a Record Society publication, inasmuch as it is already familiar or accessible ground to the student ; but it may supply others with a background against which the significance and proportion of the historical records can be appreciated. The material here is only a selection from a considerable store of manuscript records on the subject in the City Archives, most of it until 1930 in the possession of the Guardians, by whose courtesy and that of the City Archivist, under whose charge they now rest, these extracts have been made available for publication. The period 1721-43 is scantily treated in the present volume, as the Court Books for those years were missing when it was in preparation. These have now come to light, and it will therefore be possible to make good the deficiency when a further selection of material is published.

DOCUMENTS

EXCEPT where otherwise stated, these records are all taken from the Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor.

Whereas Severall propositions have been tendred to the consideration of the Maior Aldermen and Comon councill for setting the poore on worke within this Citty in Spinning of Yarne knitting of stockin's and other manufactures and one Robert Messinger hosier being ready and willing to undertake the management and care thereof soe as he may be intrusted with a Competent Stocke of money uppon good security for Tenn Yeeres and some other annual disbursements be discharged by the Citty : To the end therefore that soe good a service may be happily promoted and fully carried on with all due encouragement and assistance It is this day agreed and ordered by the maior Aldermen and Councill in Comon Councill assembled that the said proposalls of the said Robert Messinger shalbe accepted of and that the yeerly rent of the Workehouse or Workehouses, and sallary for, a Woman and Women to teach such Children as shalbe sent to worke there shalbe paid by the Chamberlin for the tyme being and allowed on his yeerly Account and that it be referred to the Maior and Aldermen to take care that such convenient house or houses be found out and put into reparacions and a provision of twines and Reeles be made at the Cittie Charges which the Chamberlin is alsoe to disburse according to their order and direccion. And forasmuch as the Undertakers are to give security to take all such poore people and children from tyme to tyme to worke as the maior and Aldermen shall send and to teach and pay them for their labours and paines as much in proporcion as they doe to any others employed to worke by which meanes every parish will have liberty from tyme to tyme on their desire to the said Maior and Aldermen to have their respective poore admitted and thereby the parishes become to be very much eased of their charges. And for that a present Supply and Stock of money is necessarily required and to be provided for the begining

1653.
March 14.¹

¹ From *Common Council Proceedings*.

1653.

of the said worke and not knowing a more speedyer way to raise the same for soe good a purpose then by allotting severall proportions and somes of money to be paid by the Feoffees, Church wardens and Vestry men of the severall parishes out of their respective revenues as hath been accustomed and used heretofore uppon such like occasions. It is therefore further ordered and agreed that there shalbe raised and paid out of the revenues of the severall parishes hereafter named the severall and respective somes following. Nicholas parish Twenty pounds All Saints Twenty pounds Temple Fower pounds Thomas Tenn pounds, Johns Tenn pounds, Redcliffe tenn pounds Christ church Twenty pounds, and that the said severall and respective summes be paid to the Chamberlyn, for the uses and intents aforesaid. Uppon a motion this day made in the house that there should be six pounds raised out of the Revenues of Stephens parish for setting the poore on Worke, Mr. Jonathan Blackwell as member of the Comon Councell did voluntarily proffer to give six pounds for the uses aforesaid and to the end it may be publiquely knowne where the workehouse shalbe kept they doe hereby give notice that the Smithshall is the place appointed under the care and oversight of Robert Messinger Milliner and doe recomend it to the Churchwardens Collectors and overseers of the poore that they in their severall parishes doe search and take notice of all such men women and Children who are fitt to be imployed and trained up in worke whereby they may gett and add unto their maintenance and be kept from idlenes And for encouragement of all such parish poore which cannot without inconvenience to their families or for other reasons come to Worke at the Workehouses they shall have Worke delivered them to their particular dwellings giving security to returne the same againe, and shall accordingly receive their Earnings and wages

1679.

May 15.¹

I The Comittee to inspect the proposall's for the Erecting and Encouragement of a Linnen Manufactory within this Citty haveing made their Report It was ordered as followeth That the Mayor and Comonalty for the advancement and encouragement of the said Manufactory will Advance to the Undertakers being the Company of Lynnendrapers and Mercers within this City and one Mr. John Kinge the Summe of Two thousand pounds

¹ From *Common Council Proceedings*.

without any Interest for the Same One thousand pound's to be ^{1679.} in their hands for the Space of Three yeeres and the other Thousand pound's for the space of Tenn yeeres The undertaker's giving good and Sufficient security for repayment of the Said Several Summes unto the Chamberlaine of the Citty and his successors to the use of the Mayor and Comonalty att the Expiracon of the said respective terms. In which security is to be a proviso that in case the Manufactory aforesaid be not proceeded upon by the Undertakers according to the Intent and meaning of the Articles of Agreement or the Import of their undertaking That then upon nine month's notice given to the Undertaker's or any two of them the Said money shallbe repayd unto them And in like manner in case the project and undertakeing doe not take good Effect that then the Mayor Burgesses and Comonalty shall be obliged to receive their money againe upon nine month's notice given by the Undertakers to the Mayor and Comonalty or the Chamberlaine of the City for the tyme being.

2 The Mayor and Comonalty doe further for the advancement of the said Manufactory agree to allow the Eastend of Bridewell¹ for a Workehouse for the Said Manufactory and that It shall be made convenient and usefull for that purpose as Mr. Kinge one of the undertakers shall direct at the charge of the Mayor and Comonalty.

3 Itt is further ordered that upon the execucion of this Agreement the said Mr. John Kinge be admitted a Free Burgesse of this Citty upon Condicion that he shall not att any one tyme retaine any more then two apprentices by Indenture to be Intituled to the freedom of the City ; the latter of which he is not to admitt Untill the former hath served him for the space of Five yeeres without Cosin or collusion. In consideracion of which several Immunity's and advantages the said Undertakers are to engage and agree constantly after the day of to employ five hundred Spinners of the Inhabitants of the Citty and such as shall be nominated to them by the Mayor and Aldermen or persons by them delegated to that purpose in the Said manufactory of linnen And that they will allow to eny person spinning Sixteene hundred yard's two pence halfe penny and soe proportionably more or less for the first yeere And afterwards It shall be at the liberty of the undertakers to advance or lessen the wages of the Spinner's according to their meritt and discretion of the

¹ The Bridewell, used as a gaol for minor offences and for prisoners under remand, stood at the east end of Nelson Street. Taylor describes it as "an old tower or fortification," rebuilt in 1577 and in 1721.

1679.

undertakers provided they never bring the Wages for sixteene hundred to be less then two pence.

The undertakers shall alsoe have liberty to bring into the said Citty twelve women to teach to spinne and twelve men to teach to weave and that the Undertakers will give security to the respective parishes wherein they shall inhabit thatt they the Said Spinners or Weaver's nor any of their family Shall att any tyme become chargeable to such parish or parishes.

The undertakers are alsoe to agree that they will not at any tyme imploy any person that shal not be a Settled Inhabitant in the Sayd Citty to worke within the Same in the Said Manufactory soe long as any person docible or usefull being an Inhabitant shall be presented to them to that purpose and for the prevention of bringing charge upon the Citty by reason of the said manufacture That they will not imploy any person not being an Inhabitant in the said Citty to worke within the Jurisdiccion and bound's of the same, without presenting such person first to the Mayor and two Aldermen at the least and to have their license for such admission. Those that are taught to Spinn Shall allow their Teacher the first month's worke in lieu of Instruccion And for the second month's worke they shall have halfe pay and Afterward's only Two pence per weeke to their Teacher for instructing them Untill such Tyme as the supervisors and Masters of the worke shall thinke fitt to take off that Two pence per weeke.

- (1) Question whether the £400 now in the Chamber given for the Employment of the Poore in Bridewell¹ be advanced as parcell of the £2000 to be deposited towards the promocion of the linnen manufactory.

In the Affirmative : nemine contra :

- (2) Question whether the £600 a part of the Guift money now remaininge in the Chest² shall be another part of the money soe to be deposited as aforesayd towards the linnen manufactory.

Carried in the Affirmative.

¹ Robert Aldworth, by his will dated 30th August, 1634, gave £1,000 " towards the setting of poor people on work " within the city. The fund was administered by the Mayor, Aldermen and Common Council, sums of £50 being lent gratis for ten years to such as would employ the poor.

² In addition to Robert Aldworth's Gift, the Common Council administered a number of loan and gift charities, with a total capital at this time of about £2,500; some of this was limited by the terms of bequest to certain occupations, and some to certain rates of interest.

The other £1000 that is to be lent for the Advancement of the ^{1679.} manufactory of linnen: Beinge to be advanced by the Free loane of Good Benefactors and promoters of this worke: It is order'd that all such as shall lend any money upon this Account shall have the Citty Seale for his security: and that this £1000 soe lent be made payeable att the End of 3 yeares; and that it be left to the Care of the mayor and Aldermen to see that good security be given to the Citty by the undertakers to the Intent the Citty may be Indempnified against there seales; ordered nemine Contradicente

Money will be lent on this occasion by.

			£
Mr. Alderman Hickes	———		30—0—0
Mr. Day	———	———	50—0—0
Mr. Earle	———	———	100—0—0
Mr. R. Hart and Brothers	—		050—0—0
Mr. White	———	———	020—0—0
Mr. Morgan	———	———	020—0—0
Mr. Cortley	———	———	020—0—0
			<hr/>
			290 : — : —

Mr. Richard Hart Mr. Day and Mr. Earle undertake to procure the £1000 on loane as aforesayd; who desire the Countenance of this house and thereupon Mr. mayor in the name of the house returned them thanks.

Receipts of Fines and Casualties from
Michaelmas 1683 to Michaelmas 1684

1683.
November
12.¹

Received of Walter Stephens² and Company of the undertakers for the Lining Weaveing in this Citie £000, which monys have beene freely lent by the Citie towards the Advancement of the said Lining Weaveing in pursuant of Severall Acts of Common Counsell for the Repayment of which the said Citie have given their Severall Citie Seales to the Severall Gifts for the Same which Remains in the Chest with the Rest of the Bonds, see folio (37)

£
000 — — —

¹ From the *Mayor's Audits*.

² A Common Councillor removed under the Corporation Act in 1661; Alderman in 1687 for one month.

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1683.

Followeth an Account of moneys Received by John Cooke Chamberlain being Severall Guifts vizt.

Received of Walter Stephens and Company being part of the gift of Mr. Nicholas Thorne ; as in the Bond Book folio (25)

£ s.
100 : 00

More received of said Mr. Stephens and Company part of the gift of Mr. Robert Rogers folio (87)

£ s.
79 : 00

More received of said Mr. Stephens and Company part of the gift of Mr. John Doughty (100)

£ s.
25 : 00

More received of said Mr. Stephens and Company part of the gift of Mr. John Dunster (111)

90 : 00

More received of said Mr. Stephens and Company part of the gift of Mr. Thomas Jones (127)

99 : 10

More received of said Mr. Stephens and Company part of the gift of Mr. Robert Kitchen (132)

91 : 10

More received of said Mr. Stephens and Company part of the gift of Mr. Robert Redwood as in Folio (150)

105 : 00

More received of said Mr. Stephens and Company part of the gift of Mrs. Margaret Browne, as in folio (158)

10 : 00

1696.
May 19.

On the Nineteenth Day of May in the Eighth Year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord William the third by the grace of God of England Scotland France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith &c And in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Six hundred Ninety and Six At St. Georges Chappell¹ in the City of Bristoll the respective Aldermen and their Deputys herein after mencioned made their Severall Returns of the Guardians of the Poor chosen for the Severall Wards of the said City on the Twelfth day of this Instant May pursuant to an Act of Parliament passed in the Seventh and Eighth Years of the Reign of our said Lord the King entituled an Act for erecting of Hospitalls and Workehouses within the City of Bristoll for the better employing and maintaining the Poor thereof Which Returns are as followeth²

¹ This building, where the Court of Guardians met until they moved into the Mint Workhouse, adjoined the Guildhall on the north side. The annual election of Mayor, Sheriffs and other officers took place there (Chilcot, *Descriptive History of Bristol*). Its large Gothic window was re-erected at The Grove, Brislington, when the Chapel was demolished (*Bristol Times*, 1st January, 1855).

² For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

For the Ward of the CASTLE	{ Henry Gibbs Charles Jones junior Isaac Davis James Wallis }	Returned by Samuel Wallis Esquire Mayor	1696.
For the Ward of ST. EWINS	{ Robert Yate Esquire John Blackwell Nathaniel Wade Esquire Peter Saunders }	Returned by John Hicks Esquire	
For the Ward of the TEMPLE	{ George Lott James Steward Joseph Fincher Samuel Whiting }	Returned by William Crabb Esquire	
For the Ward of ST. THOMAS	{ James Millerd Nathaniel Day Francis Whitchurch Henry Parsons }	Returned by Sir Richard Crump Knight	
For the Ward of ST. STEPHENS	{ Robert Bound James Hallidge Edward Tocknell John Seward }	Returned by Joseph Creswick Esquire	
For the Ward of ALL SAINTS	{ Sir John Duddleston Baronet Sir William Daines Knight John Batchelor Richard Codrington }	Returned by Arthur Hart Esquire Deputy to Sir Richard Hart Knight	
For the Ward of ST. NICHOLAS	{ Abraham Edwards Marmaduke Bowdler James Harris George Stephens }	Returned by Sir Thomas Earl Knight	
For the Ward of ST. MICHAEL	{ John Yeamans Joseph Hooke Thomas Hort Anthony Swimmer }	Returned by Robert Kirke Merchant Deputy to Sir William Clutterbuck Knight	
For the Ward of ST. MARY REDCLIFFE	{ William Lewis Esquire William Clarke William Whitehead Richard Taylor }	Returned by Sir Thomas Day Knight	

1696.

For the Ward of ST. MARY PORT	{ Edward Hacket Thomas Goldney John Curtis Thomas Tyler	{ Returned by Sir Thomas Day Knight
For the Ward of TRINITY	{ Thomas Edwards James Freeman Thomas Whitson Cornelius Sergeant	{ Returned by Sir William Hayman Knight
For the Ward of ST. JAMES	{ John Whiting Thomas Callowhill John Cary Walter Chapman	{ Returned by William Swimmer Esquire

Which Returns being made the said Mayor and Aldermen and Forty Eight Persons so returned proceeded to the Election of their Officers And Samuel Wallis Esquire and then Mayor of the said City was elected Governour for the year ensueing (nemine contradicente) William Swimmer Esquire was elected Deputy Governour James Harris Merchant was elected Treasurer And Thomas Callowhill Linnen Draper Sir William Daines Knight Nathaniel Wade Esquire Charles Jones the Younger Merchant John Cary Merchant John Batchelor Linnen Draper Edward Tocknell Merchant Nathaniel Day Soap Maker Edward Hacket Grocer James Millerd Mercer James Hallidge Merchant and Richard Codrington Mercer were elected Assistants

Item It is ordered that notice be given in Writing to the Severall ChurchWardens and Overseers of the Poor of the respective Parishes within this City to bring in their Poor Rates for the Three years last past at the next Court and then also to bring an Account of the Poor in their respective Parishes with their names ages and qualities.

June 19.

ORDERS OF THE CORPORATION.¹

2. That every Member Sitting in his place shall be Silent attending the matter in debate, and not speak or talk to any other Member
3. That when any Member hath a desire to speake he shall decently stand up at his place, and shall address his speech to the Person in the Chair, and to no other.

¹ Orders 1, 6, 8-10 omitted.

4. That if Two or more Members shall stand up to speak to the present business ; that Member which the Person in the Chair shall observe and declare did Stand up first ; Shall have precedency of Speaking unless the Court be of another opinion. 1696.
5. That no Member shall speak before the other that is speaking, shall have fully ended his speech.
7. That no Member shall speak above twice to any One business ; unless in matters of difficulty ; when on a Motion the Court consents to a free debate.
11. That No Member of this Corporation shall have any place of profit therein ; while he is Member of the said Corporation.¹

ORDERED That the Report now made being an Account of Assessments and payments towards maintenance of the Poor of the City of Bristoll for the three last years be registred in the Journall

ORDERED That only the generall totall summes of the Assessments and Payments in the said Account be enter'd which are as followes vizt.

The Assessments upon the severall Parishes in this City towards the maintaining the Poor thereof amounted to

	d
In the year <u>1693</u> £2126 „ 12 „ 4	
In the year <u>1694</u> £2254 „ '2 „ 10	
In the year <u>1695</u> £2309 „ '2 „ —	

The Account of the payments²

In the year <u>1693</u> £2145 „ 14 „ —
In the year <u>1694</u> £2344 „ '7 „ '8
In the year <u>1695</u> £2376 „ 16 „ '5

THE Committee appointed to treat for and take convenient July 7. houses for putting the Poor to work made their report that they had viewed the Workhouse called Whitehall which they think may be (when repaired) convenient for a Workhouse to employ part of the Poor in that the City had given a grant thereof and had employed Workmen to repair and make it ready for the use aforesaid And the Question being put the Court agreed with the Committee in the said report

Pursuant to the Order of the last Court the Committee appointed August 13. to view and find out a piece of Ground fit to erect an Hospitall and Work house and to make a Modell and compute the charges thereof made their report as followes

¹ Cf. order of 8th February, 1776.

² See below, under dates 7th January, 1712 ; 26th February, 1713.

1696.

Having viewed severall pieces of Ground for erecting a Workehouse vizt. in St. James's and St. Philips and also the Marsh of Bristoll we do agree that some part of the south side of the Marsh will be most convenient for the same

We do propose to build it on Three sides of a Quadrangle of which the longest side to contain 80 yards the other two sides 60 yards each or thereabouts

The Building to be 24 foot broad in the clear and the first story 11 foot high the second 9 foot and the third 8 foot and the roofe with Lutheran Windowes Cellars under about One third thereof with a convenient outlet to be inclosed within a Wall

And the same Committee having brought in severall Moddells they were ordered to be received

Ordered that it be rereferred to the same Committee to agree upon a certain Moddell and to compute the cost thereof and report it to the next Court

October 15. The Report made by the Committee appointed to consider what number of poor the New Workhouse formerly called Whitehall is capable to receive &c is as followes vizt.

		Lodgers
Lodging Rooms for Children	In the Roofe 50 foot long 16 foot broad 20 Beds each Bed 5 foot long 4 foot broad	40
	In the narrow roon on the 3rd Story 6 Beds for	12
	In the Two Rooms over the Kitchen each 12 Beds is 24 Beds	48
		<hr/> Lodgers 100 <hr/>
Working Rooms for Children	In the 3 rd Story 50 long Turns 3 deep	50
	In the 2 nd Story 50 long Turns 3 deep	50
		<hr/> Workers 100 <hr/>
Dining Room	In the first Story on the left hand as you enter a Room for all the Children &c. to dine and sup together	
Warehouse	In the first Story on the right hand as you enter a Warehouse for Wooll Yarn and other Materialls and necessarys	

Lodgings for Tutors and Servants	} In the two Rooms over the Warehouse may be convenient Lodgings for Tutors Overseers and Servants	1696.
Kitchin and Sellar	} In the lower Story is also a large Kitchin and adjoyning thereto is a Pantry for Provisions or Cellar for Bear	

(agreed) An Estimate of charges for Furniture

Charges for Furniture	A Furnace and a Boyler	12	„	—	„	—
	A Crane and Grate Andirons Slice					
	Tongs Hooks Pothooks Dressers					
	Shelves Trails Pails Stillings for	12	„	—	„	—
	Bear Cups and Cans					
	Platters Dishes Trenchers Spoons &c	„	5	„	—	„
	For Turns Reels &c	„	12	„	—	„
	For Tables Forms &c	„	15	„	—	„
	Fifty Bedsteads Cords Matts and					
	Boxes	„	25	„	—	„
	Fifty Beds Fifty Bolsters Fifty					
	Blankets 50 Rugs 50 Bolstercases					
	and 100 pair of Sheets at 3 ^s each	150	„	—	„	—
	Bed and Furniture					
	Fifty large Towells and Two Table					
	Clothes	„	4	„	—	„
	Three Beds for Tutors and					
	Servants with Furniture	„	15	„	—	„
Charges for Furniture		„	250	„	—	„

(agreed that these things be bought)

Charges for maintenance	} For firing 12 ^d per day is per week	£	s	d
		„	—	„ 7 „ —
Diet for Children—For Diet 2s. each is for 100 per week		„	10	„ — „ —
		„	10	„ 7 „ —
	Ten pounds seaven shillings per week for 13 weeks is	134	„	11 „ —
Diet for Tutors and Servants	} Three Tutors a Clarke and 3 Maids each £7 per annum for their Diet is £42 for 13 weeks is	10	„	10 „ —

50 BRISTOL CORPORATION OF THE POOR

1696.

Wages for Officers and Servants	<div> <div> A Clarke £20 per Annum 3 Tutors £5 per annum each 2 Maids £3 per Annum is £41 per Annum for 13 week is </div> <div> } </div> </div>	<div> <div> .10 „ .5 „ — </div> </div>
Charge of maintenance &c for 13 weeks		155 „ 6 „ —
(adjourned to another time)		
Charges for Furniture		250 „ — „ —
Charges for Diet &c		155 „ .6 „ —
Stock for Wooll to put them to work		.94 „ 14 „ —
		500 „ — „ —

That Five hundred pounds for providing all Materialls and Furniture for Lodging dieting and working of One hundred Children Tutors and Servants be raised as part of the £5000 allowed by the Act for building of Hospitalls and Workhouses (disagreed)

That the One hundred Children to be taken in from the severall parishes from 6 years to 16 able to work may be as follows¹

Temple	8	St. Augustines	6
St. Thomas	8	St. James	14
St. Mary Redcliffe	8	St. Philips	11
St. Nicholas	6	Castle precincts	4
St. Stephens	6	St. Peter	6
Christ Church	4	St. Maryport	2
St. Johns	5	St. Leonards	1
St. Michael	8	St. Wasbrough	1
St. Ewins	1		—
All Saints	1		45
	—		55
	55		—
	—		100
			—

That this Court do direct and order the severall Guardians of each Ward to take an Account what Children from 6 to 16 are fittest first to be brought in and to enquire of the severall Churchwardens and Overseers what they at present pay or are

¹ The numbers are not proportionate to the rating of the parishes.

willing to pay to the Treasurer towards the maintenance of Said 1696.
Children and report the Same to the next Court

That Carding and Spinning is a proper Work to imploy said
Children at their first entrance

Ordered that a sum not exceeding Five hundred pounds be
borrowed of Such persons as will lend it to this Corporation
without Interest for One year towards the putting the Poor of
this City to work And that the Seal of this Corporation be given
for their security to be repaid at the time And that an Instrument
for Subscriptions be provided against the next Court and laid on
the Table And that all the Members be desired to be then present
And that it be incerted in the Summons that all Absentees be fined
December
10.

Ordered that the Governor do under the Seal of this Corporation 1697.
authorise John Cooke and such other person or persons as the
Governor shall think fit to apprehend such Rogues Vagrants
Sturdy Beggars and idle and disorderly persons as they shall
find within this City and the County thereof and to convey them
to the New Workhouse and immediately thereupon to inform the
Governor thereof
April 22.

Ordered that a Committee be appointed who shall have power November
from time to time to hear the complaints of any of the poor of 25.
this City in order to their Relief and to take such order therein
as to them shall seem fit—And likewise to hear the complaint of
any Parishioner that shall complain that any Poor Person is
relieved above what he ought to have and to redress it according
to their discretion And also from time to time to inspect the
state of the poor in generall in this City and to represent their
opinion of that matter to this Court And to inquire into all
grievances relating to the poor and to represent the same to this
Court that they may be redressed.

Thomas Callowhill Treasurer

To the Governor Deputy Governor Assistants and
Guardians of the Poor in the City of Bristol.

November
30.

At their Court held in St. Georges Chappell the 30th of November
1697 sheweth That he hath received from the severall persons
under named the sums affixed to their names which they
subscribed to lend the Court and he the said Treasurer have
given the Court Credit for the same and by this Memoriall moves

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1697.

this Court that the said severall Lenders may have the Obligation and seal of this Corporation given to them respectively for the repayment thereof vizt.¹

To Samuel Wallis Governor	Twenty five pounds	25	„	--	„	--
To Alderman Jackson	Twenty five pounds	25	„	--	„	--
To Sir William Hayman	Twenty pounds	20	„	--	„	--
To Sir William Daines	Twenty pounds	20	„	--	„	--
To Marmaduke Bowdler	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Major Yate	Thirty pounds	30	„	--	„	--
To George Mason	Twenty-five pounds	25	„	--	„	--
To John Blackwell	Twenty pounds	20	„	--	„	--
To Richard Bayly	Twenty pounds	20	„	--	„	--
To Nathaniel Wade	Fifteen pounds	15	„	--	„	--
To Samuel Bayly	Fifteen pounds	15	„	--	„	--
To John Cary	Sixteen pounds	16	„	--	„	--
To William Whitehead	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Anthony Swimmer	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Simon Hurle	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Henry Parsons	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Isaac Davis	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Thomas Tyler	Five pounds	5	„	--	„	--
To John Curtis	Five pounds	5	„	--	„	--
To Robert Bound	Five pounds	5	„	--	„	--
To Stephen Peloquin	Five pounds	5	„	--	„	--
To Thomas Hort	Five pounds	5	„	--	„	--
To Edward Martindale	Twenty five pounds	25	„	--	„	--
To Charles Jones	Fifteen pounds	15	„	--	„	--
To Charles Harford	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To William Smith	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To James Freeman	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Cornelius Serjent	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Thomas Callowhill	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
To Benjamin Coole	Five pounds	5	„	--	„	--
To Edward Lloyd	Fifteen pounds	15	„	--	„	--
To Walter Chapman	Five pounds	5	„	--	„	--
To Sir John Dudlestone	Twenty five pounds	25	„	--	„	--
To James Harris	Ten pounds	10	„	--	„	--
Witness my hand Thomas Callowhill		466	„	0	„	0

¹ Thirty of the thirty-four lenders were Guardians; for particulars of these, see Appendix.

The Committee appointed to find out an house that may be rented and capable to take in One hundred poor Boys or more &c made their report as followes vizt. That they had viewed severall houses in this City and amongst all find none so fit or convenient for the said purpose as the Mint¹ nor any place that can be made fit or convenient in so little time or with so little charge as the said Mint therefore we make it our request to this Court they would please to use such speedy methods to obtain the same as they shall think fit To which report the Court agreed The said Committee did also report that the hundred Boys to be put to work would be best and most profitably employed in a Cotten Manufacture to which this Court agreed The question being put whither this Corporation shall take the Trade of the Cotten Manufacture upon them it past in the negative

1697.
December
23.

Order'd that the said roo Boys shall be only employed in the working part of the Cotten Manufacture

Orderd that the same Committee do treat with such persons as are willing to imploy the said Boys or any other of the poor in the said Cotten Manufacture and report the same to this Court with their opinions therein and also to inquire after Masters and Tutors for the said Children

Ordered that the present Treasurer John Cary Nathaniel Wade Charles Jones Sir John Dudlestone Richard Taylor John Whiting John Bachelor William Whitehead Walter Chapman Robert Bound Edward Tocknell James Millerd Thomas Goldney Isaac Davis George Lott Samuel Whiting Thomas Tiler Richard Codrington Francis Whitchurch Thomas Edwards George Stephens and Anthony Swimmer be a Committee to inflict such reasonable Correction and punishment on such poor Person or Persons as have or shall misbehave themselves in the New Workhouse as they shall judge the Offence doth deserve

Orderd that Such members of this Court as are of the Common January 13. Councill and Major Wade be a Committee to wait upon the Mayor and Aldermen to desire that Bridewell² may be allowed to this Court as an house of Correction to send such Rogues Vagrants Sturdy Beggars or Idle or disorderly persons unto as

¹ A full account of this historic house (St. Peter's Hospital) is given in an article by J. J. Simpson, in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society*, vol. xlvi, pp. 193-226.

² See p. 41, footnote.

1697.

they shall cause to be apprehended in order to be there corrected and kept at labour and also to inspect Bridewell and to procure the same to be made fit for that purpose with all convenient Speed and that they report the Same to the next Court
 Orderd that the said Comittee do treat with the Keeper of Bridewell and see that work be provided for them

January 19. The Comittee appointed to manage the filling the New Workhouse with poor Children &c do make the following Report vizt. That they have admitted Patience Stephens Widdow a School Mistress to teach the Children in the New Workhouse to read at the Salary of Five shillings per week the pay she formerly received of two shillings and sixpence per week out of St. Thomas Parish being taken off and that she began on Munday the 17th Instant and that her rent be paid being Twelve pence per week. Also that they the said Comittee have agreed with Mary Cooke¹ the Mistress of the New Work house to pay her the salary of Ten pounds per annum with Diet House room washing and Lodging to comence from Michaelmas last All which Report was agreed unto and confirmed by the Court

This Court being informed that the Church Wardens and Overseers of Severall Parishes with in this City have refused or neglected to bring in their Rates for the maintenance of the poor pursuant to Warrants directed to them by the Mayor and Aldermen for that purpose do order that it be referred to a Comittee effectually to take course that the said Officers be brought to obedience and to take care that all obstructions of the like nature be prevented for the future and in order thereunto that they do either cause the said Officers to be prosecuted at Law for their contempt or apply themselves to the Parliament for such remedy herein as shall be proper in the premises as to the said comittee shall seem meet the charge whereof this Court doth agree to pay and discharge

January 22. Ann Watkins being apprehended and brought before this Court did confess that her last Residence was at Ipswitch in the County of Suffolk and that she came from thence hither to beg and that she came in this City yesterday in the Company of other Vagrants and Beggars whereupon this Court doth adjudg her the said Ann Watkins to be a Vagrant and Beggar

¹ See below, under date 8th December, 1698.

Ordered that in regard this Court are of opinion that she lately 1697.
having had the small pox may be in danger to infect the Children
in the Workhouse adjacent to Bridewell she be discharged on her
promise to leave this Town immediately

William Gowins being brought before this Court and examined
did say that his last place of residence was in Chester Street in
the County of Durham and that he with his Wife came into this
City yesterday to beg in Company with Ann Watkins—and that
he hath for some time past driven the Trade of wandring up and
down and begging whereupon this Court doth adjudge him the
said Wm. Gowins to be a Vagrant and Beggar and do order that
he be comitted to the House of correction in this City comonly
called Bridewell and there to be kept at work in the said House
of Correction for the space of three years from henceforth unless
this Court doth otherwise order

John Edwards being examined did confess that his last place of
Residence was in the parish of Ellesmore in the County of Salop
and that he came from thence about a month before Christmas
last begging up and down the Country and that he came to
Town this day about Twelve of the Clock in order to beg and hath
begged within this City and received Almes here

Whereupon this Court doth adjudge him the said John
Edwards to be a Vagrant and sturdy Beggar and do order that
he be comitted to the house of Correction in this City commonly
called Bridewell and there to be kept at work in the said house
of Correction for the space of three years from henceforth unless
this Court doth otherwise order

John Gilmore being examined confesseth that the place of his
last abode was at Hackerstone in the County of Northumberland
and that he with his Wife and Child have used the Trade of
Begging for some time past and that he came to this City to
beg

Whereupon this Court doth adjudge him the said John Gilmore
to be a Vagrant and sturdy Beggar and do order that he be
comitted to the house of Correction till Munday next at noon

George Godfry being brought before this Court and examined January 26.
did appear to this Court to be a Vagrant and sturdy Beggar
and therefore this Court doth adjudge him to be so and do order
that he be committed to the house of Correction in this City
comonly called Bride well and there to be kept at work in the

1697.

said house of Correction for the space of three years from henceforth unless this Court do otherwise order¹

Henry Brown being brought before this Court upon an information brought against him that he did beg yet upon his promise that he doth depart this City immediately and be no more found therein begging this Court doth think fit to discharge him

James Priest of St. Giles's in the fields and Thomas his son and Joseph Mayor Broadweaver of Steple Ashton in Comitatu Wilts were examined and it appeared to this Court that they are Vagrants and sturdy Beggars Whereupon this Court doth order that they the said James Priest and Thomas his son and Joseph Mayor be comitted to the house of Correction in this City called Bridewell and there to be kept at work in the said House of Correction for the space of three years from henceforth unless this Court doth otherwise order

Sarah Russell of Frampton Cotteril and William Stroud of Butly in Somersetshire² being examined and it appearing that they are Vagrants and Beggars It is ordered that they be comitted to the said house of Correction till to morrow and that then it be recomended to Mr. Mayor and Aldermen by Captain Tocknel and Mr. Bound to take such course to send them home to the places of their last abode as to their grave judgments shall seem fit

February 10. The Comittee appointed to manage the filling the New Workhouse with Poor Children &c made the following Report vizt. . . . That they the said Comittee have according to the power entrusted with them by this Court settled the severall Officers for the New Workhouse vizt.

Mr. Henry Lang the Master of the said Workhouse³

Mrs. Mary Cooke the Mistress of the said Workhouse

Ann Byam

Mary Lawrence

Mary Ambrose

Mary Cox

William Vaughan Porter to the said Workhouse

Sarah Black⁴

Sarah Brown

} Tutoresses to the Children in the said
Workhouse

} Servants to the said Workhouse

¹ Brought before the Mayor and Aldermen on 11th February, 1697, by order of the Court of Guardians.

² See below, under date 10th February, 1697.

³ See below, under dates 8th February, 1699; 18th November, 1701.

⁴ The Guardians paid £2 to the Churchwarden of St. Philip and St. Jacob for this woman as "consideration money"; on 10th March following she ran away.

with whom they have agreed at severall Salarys for the Particulars ^{1697.} whereof they humbly refer this Court to their Journall Book which they herewith lay before this Court That they have admitted into the said Workhouse One hundred Girls taken out of the severall parishes of this City which they have placed under the above four Tutoresses vizt. Five and twenty Girls under each Tutoress who are to take care of them and to teach them to spin all which they have clothed according to the orders of this Court besides Margaret Jones who being above Twenty years of age is put under no particular Tutress but designed some times to spin and at other times to do the service of the House For the particular names of which Children and how they stand settled under their Tutoresses they humbly referr this Court to their beforesaid Journall Book.

That they have appointed their severall set Meals for every day in the week and also their orders for the times of rising working eating Recreation going to Bed and in each Day they have taken due care that they shall perform their Duty towards God for the particulars whereof they likewise humbly referr this Court to their said Journall Booke

That they have admitted Ann Cary a semstress and Taylor Woman to the said Workhouse at the Wages of Eight pence per day when she is called to work together with the Diet of the house and that she teach the Children as well as work her self

Elizabeth Hall alias Gower of St. Giles's in the fields and Ann the Wife of John Bell of Cripple Gate London being examined have confessed that they are Ballad singers and were taken singing lewd Ballads in this City It is ordered that they be discharged upon their promise to depart this City immediately

Thomas Pick of Cromwell in Gloucester shire aged 33 years being taken up for begging in this City and on examination confessing his crime and promising to go back to his habitation and not to return hither again It is ordered that he be discharged

Judith Kemburn of Marlborough in Wiltshire aged 19 years being taken up as a Vagrant and confessing herself toboso and promising to depart this City and not to return again It is ordered that she be discharged

William Stroud of Butly in Somerset shire aged about 60 years being taken up for begging in this City and on examination confessing his crime and it appearing that he had been formerly

1697. brought before this Court and discharged on his promise to depart the City but being again taken in the same crime It is orderd that he be kept in the house of Correction till to morrow morning 10 a Clock and that then it be recomended to the Mayor and Aldermen by Capt. Tocknell and Mr. Bound to take such course for his correction and being sent to the place of his last abode as to their Worships shall seem fit

February 16. The Comittee appointed by the Court of the 23^d of December last to treat with such persons as are willing to imploy the Boys or any other of the poor in the Cotten Manufacture do report That they have spoken with a Gentleman of Manchester who recomends to them a certain Person of that Town who understands the working part of the said Manufacture from the carding to the compleating of the piece fit for sale and is capable of instructing others in the same to whom he also gives the Character of an honest diligent man

The said Gentleman doth likewise recomend to them the making of Tapes Incles¹ and other parts of the Manchester Trade as more profitable then the Cotten Manufacture and always finding a quicker sale and returns

Which Report the Court taking into their consideration do order that the same Comittee to take care to send for the person intimated in the said Report or any others at the charge of this Corporation in order to Treat with them to be Tutors of the Boys in the said Cotten Manufacture.

February 23. The Comittee appointed from time to time to hear the Complaints of any of the poor of this City in order to their reliefe &c do report that Mary Smith did make application to the said Comittee for reliefe for five Children of Mary Jones who is now a Prisoner in Newgate for a Debt of Eleven pounds to Mr. John Eliot and offered to them a Lease of two houses as a security to this Corporation for raising of mony to discharge the said Debt without which the said Children will become chargeable to this Corporation

That they have also agreed with Herman Rull of St. Stephens parish Joyner to take Rachell Keen Apprentice a Girl now chargeable to this Corporation for the sum of five pounds he the

¹ " *Inkle*, a kind of linen tape . . . formerly used for shoe-ties, apron-strings and the like " (Murray).

said Herman Rull giving Bond to repay the same when ever she shall become chargeable to this Corporation 1697.

Ordered that it be referred to Mr. John Whiting Mr. Bachelor Mr. Cary Mr. Goldny and Captain Tocknell or any two of them to agree with the said Mr. Eliot on the best terms they can for the discharge of the said Mary Jones out of Prison upon her assignment of the Lease to this Corporation in order to enable her to provide for her Children

Mr. Cary reported from the Committee appointed to agree with Mr. Eliot for the discharge of Mary Jones out of Prison &c that they had agreed and paid him the sum of seaven pounds in full and also to the Keeper of Newgate One pound five shillings and to the Underkeeper two shillings and for her Liberari sixteenpence being in all Eight pounds Eight shillings and 4^d whereupon she was discharged out of Prison for which she hath assigned the Leases for her two houses as a security to this Corporation which Leases with the Assignment were delivered in to the Court March 10.

The Committee appointed to consider of methods to put out the Boys Appentices that are chargeable to this Corporation do report March 24.

That there have been Good Laws made during the Reigns of severall Kings and Queens of this Realm for the keeping the poor at work that so they might support themselves by their own labour And amongst other things the binding out of poor Children Apprentices hath been recomended by these severall statutes

And particularly by the statute of the 43^d of Elizabeth It is provided that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor with the consent of the Justices of the peace shall bind forth any poor Children to be Apprentices where they shall see convenient till such manchild shall come to the age of Four and twenty years and such Woman Child to the age of One and twenty years or the time of her marriage which Children may be so set forth after they are past the age of seaven years But by the 7th of James the 1^o are to be under the age of Fifteen

That the thus placing out of Children Apprentices and thereby early educating them in labour hath been always lookt upon as the greatest piece of Charity which the Parish Officers could exercise towards them the bare gathering and raising mony to

1697.

maintain them idly being no advantage either to them or the Nation

That . . . it doth appear to this Committee and they humbly offer it as their opinion that whatever power was formerly entrusted in the Church wardens and Overseers of the poor with consent of the Justices of the peace to bind out Children Apprentices is now devolved on this Corporation besides the farther power given them of binding them forth though arrived to the age of sixteen

That the Law having entrusted this power for the good of the poor doth expect that in the execution thereof due care shall be taken

1. In respect of the Master To see that he be a man of ability and honesty also of some sort of employment or faculty lest otherwise the Child be ill treated and thereby tempted to forsake his service or else consume his time idly without learning any thing whereby he may live hereafter
2. In respect to the Children That it be done early whilst they be young and tractable before idleness and the Effects of a bad education make them unfit for services
3. In respect to the Parents that care may be taken to bind out the Children of such as are least able to relieve them

This Committee therefore doth with all humility offer their thoughts unto this Court by what steps this great worke of binding out Apprentices (which is so advantageous to the poor of this City) may be brought about

1. They humbly offer that this Court will be pleased to make application to the Mayor and Aldermen to desire their assistance and likewise to request of them that they will by their own example encourage the Merchants and other great Traders and wealthy Citizens of this City to take such poor Children Apprentices to serve them in such Employments as to them shall seem fit
2. That Application be made to the said Mayor and Aldermen requesting of them that whereas severall Gifts are intrusted in their hands for the incouragement of the Tradesmen and Manufacturers of this City by loans of severall sums of mony for the better carrying on their Trades they will please to lay obligations on those Persons to whom they lend the said mony to take some of the Youth of this City Apprentices and where mony is already lent out and become due they will be pleased to call it in in order thereunto

3. That the said Mayor and Aldermen be desired to oblige all those Tradesmen and others who depend on them such as the City Plomer Mason Carpenter &c to take some of the poor Children Apprentices 1697.
4. That this Court will be pleased to endeavour to prevail with the members of this Society to take some of the poor Children of this City Apprentices to them and to breed them up in such a manner as to them shall seem meet
5. That whereas a great number of ships do belong to this City and a great number of Mariners are employed in them such as Masters of Ships Mates Boatswaines Gunners Ship Carpenters &c who generally take Apprentices out of the Country They humbly offer that this Court will please to endeavour to prevail with them to take some of the poor Children of this City and if they find them obstinate to interceed with the Mayor and Aldermen to make use of their authority And they humbly conceive that if this were put in practice great numbers of the poor Children might be employed in our own ships whose places are now supplied by strangers
6. That whereas there are within this City great numbers of Manufacturers and Handicraft Tradesmen Such as Ship Carpenters House Carpenters Smiths Joyners Weavors Shoemakers Plummers &c being all Trades of labour the same method may be taken to place the poor Children of this City with them
7. That notwithstanding the above Statute of the 6th and 7th of his present Majestie doth compell all Persons on whom Apprentices are settled according to the 43^d of Elizabeth to take them without mony They humbly offer it to the Wisdome of this Court whither they will not consent that in some cases mony may be given
8. That this Court will please to give directions
1. That the Guardians from their severall Wards do bring in the names of such Persons as are qualified to take poor Children Apprentices
2. That the Comittee appointed to inspect the state of the poor of this City be directed to bring in an Account to this Court of the names and ages of the poor Boys which are maintaind at the charge of this Corporation together with their weekly pay
3. That the Guardians do bring in an Account of what Boys (the Children of Poor Parents) are fit to be put out Apprentices within their particular Wards which are not on the Charge of this Corporation but that this be not done till the others be placed forth

1697. 4. That a Book be provided wherein may be kept an Account of all monys given to this Corporation for binding forth poor Children Apprentices and also to register the names of all those who are bound forth and also the names of those to whom they are bound and the Terms And that the Committee appointed to inspect the state of the poor be directed to report at every meeting of this Court what poor Children have been bound out since the holding of the last Court that so they may be entered in the said Booke And that they do also then produce to this Court the Indentures or other Contracts to be laid up as this Court shall direct

1698.
May 12.

The Committee appointed to consider of methods to prevent Strange poor from coming into this City and inhabiting here do Report That the advantages designed by the Lawes made against Idleness and Vagrancy are very great as they tend to the suppressing the former and rooting out swarms of Vagabonds who wander up and down to the danger and indignity of the nation and therefore they have provided that all Persons should have a certain place of Settlement where they may live by their own labour or be provided for, if they become impotent And that no person . . . shall remove without a Certificate signed by the Officers of the parish to shew where his settlement is or last was

. . . That it is not for want of good Laws but for want of putting them in execution that this City is so pestered and filled with Vagabonds Vagrants and Wandring poor who increase and swell our poor Rates to the great charge of the Inhabitants

For preventing whereof for the future this Committee doth humbly offer to this Court

1. That the Mayor and Aldermen be desired to give order to the Constables in their severall Wards to make a sudden and privy search for all Vagabonds Vagrants Idle and wandring persons and them to apprehend and bring before them that they may be dealt with according to Law And that they will be pleased to repeat these their orders as often as they see there is need which this Committee humbly thinks will be a means to discourage and in a short time effectually to prevent such numbers of wandring people from settling in this City as do every day come and reside therein
2. That the Guardians who are appointed to pay the poor in each parish be desired to take care that no Persons do abide

in their Respective Parishes without bringing such Certificates as the Statute of the 8th and 9th of his present Majestie doth require 1698.

3. That this Court will be pleased to appoint Officers of their own at the charge of this Corporation to apprehend and take up all such Vagrant and wandring Beggars as they shall from time to time meet with in this City And also to inspect the severall parishes thereof and give an Account to the Comittee appointed to take care of the poor at their weekly meetings what Strangers are come to reside in the severall Parishes within this City that they may take care to have them removed or set at work according to law

Mr. Cary informing this Court that the Widow Sweet a Crazy Woman of this City may in time become chargeable to this Corporation and that She hath or lately had an annuall income which was left her for her maintenance which he is informed She is now selling and squandring away It is ordered that it be referred to a Comittee to consider how she may be prevented from selling and squandring away her Estate and thereby to prevent her being chargeable to this Corporation

Mr. Alderman Wallis reported from the Comittee appointed to consider how the Widow Sweet may be prevented from selling and squandring away her Estate that they had discoursed with Mr. John Morgan of the Whiteheart who tells them that he hath bought her annuity for her life and that there remains in his hands due to her the sum of seaventeen pounds four shillings and 7d. Also that she hath two Bonds of about seaven pounds each from himself due at uncertain days of payment Also that she hath two Houses in Broadmead one she dwells in and the other near it is worth about six pounds per annum It is ordered that this matter be rereferred to the same Comittee May 19.

Wheras the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor of the severall Parishes herein aftermentioned have received Warrants from the Mayor and Aldermen of this City for the collecting leavying and paying in to the Treasurer of this Corporation the severall Sums of mony respectively assessed on their severall Parishes which they have neglected to do for above the space of Twenty days next after the issuing forth of such Warrants and do Still refuse and neglect to do the same that is to say the Parish of St. Michaels the sum of £50 „ -- „ -- for the June 9.

1698.

maintenance of the poor and the sum of £5 „ 12 „ .4½ for the building of Hospitals &c the Parish of St. Ewins the sum of £16 „ 10 „ .4½ for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £1 „ 17 „ .1 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Maryport the Sum of £32 „ 12 „ .3 for for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £3 „ 13 „ .3 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Peters the sum of £65 „ -- „ -- for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £7 „ .5 „ 11½ for the building of Hospitals &c the parish of St. Walbourn the sum of £40 „ -- „ -- for maintenance of the poor and the sum of £4 „ .9 „ 10 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Austins the sum of £66 „ -- „ -- for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £7 „ .7 „ 10 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Johns the sum of £41 „ 14 „ .3 for the maintenance of the poor and the Sum of £4 „ 13 „ .8 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Nicholas the sum of £143 „ .5 „ 10½ for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £16 „ .1 „ -- for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Thomas the sum of £111 „ .4 „ -- for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £12 „ .9 „ .2 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Stephens £85 „ .3 „ 10½ for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £9 „ 10 „ 10 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. James £114 „ .3 „ .9 for the maintenance of the Poor and the sum of £12 „ 12 „ .½ for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Philip and Jacob the sum of £53 „ -- „ -- for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £5 „ 19 „ -- for building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of St. Mary Redcliffe the sum of £55 for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £6 „ .3 „ .6 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of Christchurch the sum of £75 „ .0 „ -- for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £8 „ .8 „ .6 for the building of Hospitalls &c the Parish of the Temple the sum of £60 „ -- „ -- for the maintenance of the poor and the sum of £6 „ 19 „ 10½ for the building of Hospitals &c all payable at our Lady day last It is therefor ordered that Warrants be issued forth by the Governor under the lesser seal of this Corporation for leavying the said severall sums on the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor who ought to have leavyed collected and paid the same and that the same be leavyed by vertue thereof by distress and sale of the Goods of the said respective Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor

Ordered that it be rereferred to Alderman Wallis to inquire and inform the Court of the terms of admitting Boys into Queen Elizabeths Hospital according to the Wills of the severall Donors
 Ordered that it be referred to Mr. William Smith to procure the admission of John Lovell of St. Thomas Parish into the said Hospitall upon the usuall terms and to get the mony from Daniel Jones if he can

1698.
 September
 27.

Ordered that a Comittee be appointed to inspect the Title of Elizabeth Cicell Widdow to an house in the Castle Ditch and to give her what assistance they can in the recovery of the possession thereof.

Major Wade acquainting this Court that the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Parish of St. Augustine do propose to give this Court security that the One hundred pounds lately given by Mrs. Bickham to the poor of the said Parish the Profits thereof to be distributed to them in Bread¹ and likewise all other Gifts already given to be distributed in Bread to the Poor of that Parish shall be distributed according to the Wills of the severall Donors Provided they be settled in Trustees to be chosen one half by this Court and the other by the Churchwardens and Overseers of the said Parish who shall have power to manage the same It is ordered that the said proposall be accepted of and that Sir Thomas Day Sir John Dudlestone Mr. Alderman Wallis Major Yate Major Wade Mr. Codrington Captain Tocknell and Captain Cary be the Trustees for this Court

October 4.

The Comittee appointed to manage the New Workhouse do report that they are informed by mrs. Cook that Margaret Jones and Mary Hiet two Girls belonging to the said Workhouse absented themselves from it on Munday morning last and are not yet returned and that they carryed away with them their Working Clothes and Blue Peticots with one spare Shift and two Spare Aprons and that it is supposed they are gone for London which matter they humbly lay before this Court for their consideration
 Ordered that it be referred to the said Comittee to take care to find out the said two Girls and cause them to be brought back again if they see it convenient

October 20.

¹ Mrs. Bickham, by a will dated 24th March, 1696-7, also left an exactly similar bequest to the parish of St. James, and a house and garden in Trenchard Lane "to the parishioners of the parish of Temple" for bread for the poor. In neither of these cases do the Guardians seem to have co-operated in the administration.

1698.
November
16.

The Committee appointed to hear the Complaints of the Poor &c do report that Mary Bush a Poor Woman of the Castle Precincts making application to the said Committee for relief and complaining that there is about six and thirty pounds due to her from the Widdow of her late Brother Gregory Bush deceased which she detains from her they humbly request this Court in her behalf that they will please to consider of some method for the recovery of her just due to prevent her becoming chargeable to this Corporation

Ordered that Major Wade Mr. Cary Mr. Charles Jones Mr. Isaac Davis and Mr. Henry Sampson be a Committee to inquire into the affair of the abovesaid Mary Bush and to endeavour to recover for her such mony as they shall find due unto her¹

December
8.

The Committee appointed to examin into the disorders and irregularitys in the affairs of the new Work house do make the following Report vizt, That upon the examination they have made they do find there are very great disorders in that house and such as are prejudiciall to the Interest of this Corporation which do arise chiefly from the heighth and fury of the spirits of the Mistress and Tutresses in their carriage one to another, and they fear it cannot be remedied without parting them which they humbly submit to the consideration of this Court

Which Report being read and a Debate arising thereupon It was ordered that Mrs. Cooke the Mistress of the New Work house be discharged of that Office The previous question being put whither the Question shall be now put that any of the Tutresses be likewise discharged from their Offices it past in the negative.

The Committee appointed to consider what method may be most proper to be taken by this Court to prevent such strangers from coming and inhabiting in this City as are like to become chargeable to this Corporation do make the following Report vizt. . . . They . . . humbly represent it as their opinion that a Generall Officer be appointed whose business shall be to examin every Parish and make a Report to every Generall Court what Strangers are come to reside therein without Certificates and likewise to return the names of those that come with Certificates that they may be brought in to the Court and that the Guardians of each Parish do appoint such Person or Persons as they shall think

¹ See below, under date 10th August, 1699.

convenient to enquire into their own Parishes and give an Account 1698.
to them and also to the Generall Officer as soon as any stranger
does come to reside in the Parish

Ordered that Thomas Dapwell be employed as a Generall Officer December
to inspect the Parishes of this City and correspond with the 22.
Guardians and with the Particular Officers appointed by them in
every Parish to examin what strangers do come to reside therein
and that he do it every Munday and Wednesday morning and
report what Discoverys he shall make to the Guardians of the
Parish and also to every Court to begin next Munday and that
he have the Salary of two shillings per week for the same and
that Mr. Governor be desired to procure him to be sworn a
Constable

Ordered that it be rereferred to the Comittee for the New
Workhouse to take care that Bridewell be made ready to receive
Vagrants and also that Straw for Lodging and other materialls
be prepared to set them to work . . .

Mr. Alderman Wallis having this day paid and given to this January 23.
Corporation the sum of One hundred pounds to the use of the
poor of this City charged only with the yearly payment of Fifteen
shillings to be paid to such Minister as shall on the day of Election
of the Governor Deputy Governor and Assistants preach a
sermon in the Parish Church of St. Peter within this City before
the Governor Deputy Governor Assistants and Guardians and
such of the Poor under their care as shall be then present and
also the sum of Two shillings and sixpence a piece to the Parish
Clerk and Sexton of the said Parish . . .

The Committee for the New Workhouse reporting that Mary March 8.
Powell Ann Hooper and Sarah Witherly all Girles belonging to
the said Workhouse are run away, Powell with her Working
Clothes and the others with both their suits, It is Ordered that
Hooper and Witherly be incerted in the Gazat and that a reward
of twenty shileings a peice be promised to any that will secure
them so that they may be sent downe with a Pass, and being
informed that Powell is at Bussleton, Ordered that it be referred
to the said Committee to take such Orders about her as they shall
think fitt.

68 BRISTOL CORPORATION OF THE POOR

1699.
May 2. Ordered that Mr. Pillsworth Chirurgeon be paid six-pounds in full for Dressing Olive Morris of Christ church parish
- June 15. Ordered that Mrs. Joyner Widow be taken into this house to be the mistriss of the Kitching and to Oversee the Dressing of their Dyet at the Sallery of three pounds per annum Dureing the Pleasure of this Court.
Ordered that Alice Fleetwood be taken into this house and employed in mending Cloaths and makeing bedds and to do other necessary Service in this house during the pleasure of this Court
Ordered that John Gifford our porter have a Lodging in this house for him Selfe and his wife and that his wife be employed in teaching the Boys to read
- June 21. There being a Boy presented to this Court in a habit Proposed for the Boys to ware that are to be Taken into this house being a blue Coat with Tin Buttons a blue westcoat with Clasps white Breetches blue stockens and blue Capps : Ordered that the same be the habit of the Boys to be taken into the said Work-house.
- July 19.¹ Ordered that the Boys be Dieted According to the directions following.
Sunday — Breakfast Bread four ounces, Chees one ounce and one horn of beere.
Dinner half a pound of Beefe, four ounces of bread, two horns of beer, Garden stuff threepence for twenty
Supper four ounces of Bread one ounce and half of Chees and one horn of Beer.
Monday — Breakfast the broth Thickned with Oatmeale and Six ounces of Bread, to Four.
Dinner a pint of Green Beans one ounce of Baccon two horns of Beer.
Supper a pint and halfe of milkporridge to be half milk
Tuesday — Breakfast four ounces of Bread one ounce and halfe of Chees one horn of Beer
Dinner one pint and half of peasesoope Each quantity to have half a pint of Pease and one Spoonfull of Flower.

¹ From a Committee Book of the Mint Workhouse Committee.

Wednesday—Breakfast one pint and quarter of Dito or 1699.

Milkporridge

Dinner Beans, Bacon, and Beere as Munday

Supper Bread four ounces one ounce and halfe of Chees, and one horn of Beere.

Thursday — Breakfast one pint and quarter of Milk-porridge

Dinner Beef &c as Sunday.

Supper Bread and Chees.

Fryday — Breakfast the broth &c as munday.

Dinner one pint and half of peassoop

Supper one-pint and quarter of peassoop or Milk-porridge.

Saturday — Breakfast one pint and quarter of Leek or Herb-soop

Dinner one pint and half of Milksoop

Supper Bread and Chees as before and one horn of Beere.

Mr. Samson from the Committee to whome the differance between August 10.

Mary Bush and her sister was referred reports that they have settled the differance but that they do not think it safe to pay the money into the hands of Mary Bush because she may Suddenly become Chargeable to this corporation therefore desires that this Court would Take her money and Allow her a Maintenance Ordered that it be referred to the Committee for the poor to do in it as they shall see fitt.

Mr. Slater being Called in and produceing his Articles of Agreement August 14.¹ with Major Wade and Sir John Dudlestone in the behalfe of this Corporation Ordered that they be Coppied in the Book and are as followeth.

AGREED this ninth day of March in the Eleventh year of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lord King William the Third of England &c Anoque domini 1698 BETWEEN Sir John Dudlestone Barron and Nathaniel Wade Esquire both of the city of Bristoll as well for and on the behalfe of them-Selves as of the Governor Deputy Governor Assistants and Guardians of the Poor in the said City of Bristoll of the one part and James Slater of Manchester in the County of Lancaster Fustian Maker of the other part as followeth (viz)

Whereas the Said James Slater is now designed for a voiage to Imprimis

¹ This and the four following extracts are from the Committee Book of the Mint Workhouse Committee.

1699.

Ireland from the Port of Bristoll and to return thither speedily
Now it is Agreed and the Said James Slater for and the
Considerations hereafter mentioned Doth grant and Agreed to
and with the Said Sir John Dudlestone and Nathaniel Wade
that he the Said James Slater will returne from his said Voiage
with all convenient speed and shall and will well and truly Serve
the Said Governor Deputy Governor Assistants and Guardians of
the poor in the Art Mistery and Tread of Fustian making and in
all other Business relateing thereto for and During the space of
Two Years to commence from the time of the Said James Slaters
returne from Ireland and Entering upon his said work—

And that dureing the Said Terme he shall and will well and faith-
fully use the Best of his Skill in serveing the Said Governor Deputy
Governor Assistants and Guardians of the poor in the Said Tread
and Instructing such other persons therein as the said Governor
Deputy Governor Assistants and Guardians of the poor shall requir

Item

In consideration of the premisses Itt is Agreed And the said Sir
John Dudlestone and Nathaniel Wade do and doth Covenant and
Agree to and with the said James Slater That the Said Governor
Deputy Governor Assistants and Guardians of the poor Shall
Well and truly pay or Cause to be paid to the said James Slater—
the Sum of Thirty pounds per Annum during the said Space of
Two Years by halfe Yearly payments and alsoe Shall During the
Said Terme find and provide for the Said James Slater competent
and Sufficient meat drink washing and Lodgeing—

IN WITNESS whereof the partys first above Named to these
present Articles of Agreement have interchangeably Set their
hands and Seales the day and Year first above writen

Sealed and delivered his Majesties John Dudlestone ○

Double sixpeny stamp being first Nathaniel Wade ○

Affixed : Witness

Samuel Fox

Freeman Lawrence

The committee then proceeded to make an Agreement with the
Said Mr. Slater about dieting himselfe and at his request do
consent that he be Allowed ten pound per annum for his Diet
washing and Linnen used Either at Bed or board &c. with
this proviso that his diet be brought home to him and that he
Eat it in the house

Also Agreed with him to be Master of the house and that he take

on him the Government of the Boys as from time to Time he 1699.
shall be directed by this Committee.

Ordered that the orders now presented as under written be the August 12.
Standing orders of this house and that the Clerk do writ them
out fair in a Table and hang them up in the Lower working
Room

ORDERS FOR THE HOUSE

Clock

- 6 { That from the first of October to the first of March The
children shall rise at Six of the clock in the morning
- 7 { That their faces and hands be washed and their heads
Combed and that they go to work at seven.
- 9 That they continue Work till nine.
- 10 { That they go to prayer and from thence to Breakfast
and play till ten.
- 12 Then go to work and so continue till twelve.
- 1 Then go to Dinner and play till one.
- 7 Then go to work and so continue till seven.
- 8 { Then go to Supper and after that have a recess till
Eight at which time that they go to prayer and then to
- 9 { bed at nine.
- 5 { That from the first of march to the first of October they
rise at five of the Clock in the Morning
- 6 Comb their heads and wash till Six.
- 8 Then go to work till Eight.
- 9 { Then go to prayer and afterwards to Breakfast and play
till nine.
- 12 Then work till Twelve.
- 1 Then go to Dinner and play till One.
- 7 Then work till Seven
- 9 { Then go to Supper and play till nine
Then go to prayer and So to bed—

The Committee Observing the great Necessity of Tutors to Teach August 25.
the Boys to work on cotton and finding that none here about do
rightly understand to Instruct them Ordered that Mr. Slater do
Sett out on munday next for Tuxbury and Endeavour to procure
Two Tutorers or Tutoresses Such as he shall think most fitt to
Instruct the Children and if he hath not Success there to go
forward to Manchester and Endeavour the Like there and at
Either place to make an agreement with them not Exceeding

1699. Eleven months on the Lowest rates he can and to return in Eight days or sooner if Possible

September 18. Mr. Slater acquaints the Committe that according to a former order he had been at Manchester and made an agreement with Sarah Farnsworth and Ann Crumpton Spinsters to be Tutoreses to the Children in this house for Carding and Spining of Cotton for Eleven Months Commenceing from the Time they Came heither which was Fryday the 15th Instant at the Wages of five pounds per annum Each and to have the Dayly diet of the house (Except Bread and Cheese) Also Washing and Lodgeing and twelvecence per week Each for bread Chees and butter &ce and over above he was to pay the Charge of their Coming heither, to which the Committe Agreed, And they being Called in Consented to the above Agreement

October 18. The Employments for the Antient people
 Bridget Hall to Pick Cotton and Oversees the Rest
 Mary Morris at making Bone Lace
 Elizabeth Child at Picking Cotton and Looks the boys heads
 Dorothy Harvie to make Bone Lace and Look the Boys heads
 Ann Parry to Pick Cotton
 Elizabeth Joslin in the Nursery and to Mend Cloaths
 Elizabeth Welch to rove Cotton and look the Boys heads
 Mary Butcher at sowing.
 Joan Abbett to Pick Cotton
 Ann Fryers to Knit Stockens
 Adry Carter pick Cotton or Comb the Boys heads
 Jane Fowler to Card Cotton
 Margaret Hicks to Pick Cotton
 Joan Wheeler to Pick Cotton
 Amey Haskins disabled by the Palsey
 Margaret Abbets Blind
 Joan Dier to Pick Cotton
 Grace Bevin Washes
 James Bell } Taylors
 Philip Kemp }
 Joseph Cary Combs Wooll
 Nicholas Farmer Picks Cotton
 William Williams and } To Cutt Wash and Dress Juncks and
 Henry Knowles } pick Oakcom.
 Thomas Castledean to make Vents and Fossets

The Committee to whom it was referred to Consider of Reasons for or Against removing the Girles to the Mint Workhouse made their report as under 1699. November 22.

That it will be convenient they be removed thither from the place where now they are for the following reasons.

1. That thereby all the working people being brought together, the management will be more Easy to the Guardians; the New Workhouse being now very much neglected, whereby the accounts will come into Confusion.
2. That there is not Roome enough in the New-Workhouse for the Girles already there, and such are to be taken in, to work and Lodge in, but that there may be room enough made for both at the Mint Workhouse, (With the Addition of Some houses belonging to Mr. Callowhill) which Room will be unimployed if this be not done.
3. That the alteration may be so Contrived, that the Boys and Girles may be kept separate, goe in and out at distinct Doors, and have a separate Court to play in.
4. That the Corporation may then set up a new Manufactory of fine Stuffs which in all probability will prove very Advantageous, both to the City in generall, and to the said Corporation in particular by imploying the Boys or Girles in Weaving the said Stuffs, and also in twisting the Yarn, &c: for which there is not room in the New Workhouse; And by this means the Worsted Yarn which now lies on our hands will be wrought up.
5. That this will save a great deal of Charge to the Corporation, not only by lessening their number of servants, but also by converting the New Work house for the entertaining Such Poor, Whose Rents are now paid by the Corporation the Charge of Which, the Committee Setts down at One hundred Eighty five pounds; at which rate the whole is offered to be undertaken, according to the Moddell underneath; so that this Committee doth Suppose by the Computation following that the Corporation will save two and thirty pounds per annum, and all things better accomodated then now they are vizt.

The New Work house may be divided into 16			
or 20 rooms and may receive 40 Inhabitances			
which at 26 ^s per annum is			
	-	-	-
			52-00-00
Charges	£	£	s
To Interest of 185 as above	-	10	-16
To Rent to Mr. Callowhill	-	9	-00
			19-16-0
Rest	-	-	32-04-0

1699. 6. That if this be done, the Churchyard may be kept as private and neat as if it were an outward Court to the house, and thereby the Boys and Girles, and also the old people, kept from running forth and others from Coming in, as now they do.

Upon Information made by Mr. Callowhill that Joseph Bowin a poor Blind man of St. James parish who had formerly 12^d per week allowed him on the poors book, will pay in to this Corporation sixteen pounds seventeen shillings and three pence for the use of the said Corporation provided he may have assured to him under the Common seal two shilings perweek for his Maintenance during his life Ordered that the Treasurer be desired to receive the money and when it is paid a seal to be given him accordingly.

December
29.

James Waters and Charles James to boys in this Work house haveing been accused and Convicted of Picking the Pocket of John Rudge another of the Boys in this house of Elevenpence in money It is ordered that the said James Waters and Charles James Shall to morow between the hours of Eleven and twelve of the Clock be striped Naked to the Wast and Whipped Six strips Each at the Whipping Post in the Court yard by John Gifford Beedle

- February 8. Mr. Henry Lang Informing this Court that he kept the fair with Canteloons¹ made at the Newworkhouse and Could Sell but 13 of them there ; 12 peices of them at 7^d $\frac{3}{4}$ ^p per yard and one at 8^d per yard and that there is remaining in his hands thirty nine peices which he Could no sell at Either of those prizes ; which the Court being desirous to reduce into money have directed him to deliver all the said 39 peices at the price of 7^d $\frac{3}{4}$ per yard when Called for.

1700.
April 17.

Whereas Elizabeth Price and her three Children are now in this City and like to become Chargeable to this Corporation Ordered that Major Wade and Mr. Samuel Jacob be desired to Wait on the Mayor and Aldermen to morrow the 18th Instant in order to get them removed to their proper place of settlement.

May 8.

Reports being made by the Committees for the Mint-Work house and the New work house that persuant to an order of the Last

¹ "*Cantel-cape*, a kind of cope or cape ; *canile*, a corner-piece ; *to canile*, to piece together cantles of cloth " (Murray).

Court that they had taken an account of the Stock of Each house 1700
Ordered that they be Entered in this book and they are as followeth.

The Committee for the Mint Work house gives an account
Cotten Yarn and stock in the house vizt.

	lb.	oz.	£	s	d	
Cotten Yarn - -	1211	5	-	-	141	07-06
Linnen Yarn - -	1167	13	-	-	77	16-05
Cotten Wooll - -	247	-	-	-	13	17-10½
Fustians, 33 pieces and 1 End	-	-	-	-	56	02-08½
Debts due to the Corporation - -	-	-	-	-	43	16-06
						<hr/> 333-01-00
Debts Owning - -	-	-	-	-	29	17-09
						<hr/> Rest : 303-03-03

The Committee for the New Work house gives an account of
the said stock vizt.

	lb.					
Worsted Yarn - -	1377	-	-	171	10-00	
Combed Wooll - -	75	-	-	5	00-00	
Pinnion Yarn - -	119	-	-	6	02-07½	
Pinnions - - - -	158	-	-	5	05-04	
Wooll - - - -	482	-	-	22	04-00½	
Cantoloons &c - 47 peices	-	-	-	81	06-05	
Debts due to the Corporation	-	-	-	62	16-02	
						<hr/> 354-04-07
Debts owing - -	-	-	-	37	08-07	
						<hr/> Rest 316-16-00

Ordered that the Beere that is to be drankd in this house be
Brewed in this house and it is referred to the Committee for the
Mint-Work house to provide all things Necessary for Brewing
and to put this Order in Execution

Ordered that it be referred to a committee to consider of a
convenient place for a Schoolhouse wherin the Boys in this house
may be taught to Writ and Cast account and that they report
their opinion to the Next Court and also that Appointing a Master
With his Sallary be under their Consideration

1700.
June 13.

Ordered that one halfe of the Girles belonging to the New-Work-house be forth-with Imployed in Spining of Cotten and it is refered to the Commitee of the Said Work-house to Appoint Such Girles for that purpose as they shall think fitt

Ordered that the Committee appointed to Consider of a convenient place for a Schoole-house do treat further with Mr. Thomas Callowhill and agree with-him for his house Adjoyning to the Mint-Work-house Either to rent or buy the Said house and report the Same to the Next Court ;

July 18.

Ordered that the committee of the Poor do for the future take care to recommend no Children to the Committee of Either house to be taken in there Except it be by the consent of their fathers if in being or nearest relations to the Said Children

August 21.

Ordered that it be referred to Mr. Charles Jones and Mr. Edward Jones to make Enquire where Thomas Evince Son of James Evince Carrier and Margaret his wife was born and what Age the Said Thomas is and that in the Mean time he be received into this house till further provision can be made for him and that the Treasurer do pay William Howell his Note amounting to three pounds ten shillings for Lodgeing diet and Attendance of the said Thomas Evince in the Small Pox.

John Webly a poor boy in this house being Brought before this Court and accused and Convicted of great misdemeanors refuseing to follow his work and breaking out of this house severall times and very Ill Language to the Officers and tutorers Ordered that the said Webly be forth with stript to the Waste and given nine strips on his Naked back with a burching rodd at the Whiping post by the Beadle and after to return to the place of Confinement to pound freestone and to Continue there till the Committee of this house do think it convenient to releas him.

Ordered that the Treasurer do pay Mr. Legg Keeper of Newgate twenty shillings on the discharge of Paul Morgan now in prison.

September
18.

Mr. Treasurer maketh report that Mr. Mathew Worgan have paid him fifty pound being so much given by the Will of Mr. Mr. John Worgan of this City Wine-Cooper his late father deceased Which Will bears date the 13 day of November in the Ninth year of his present Majestis Reigne and so much thereof

as relates to the said gift is in the words following Item I give 1700.
to the Churchwardens of the said parish of St. Thomas and to
their successors Churchwardens of the same parish for the time
being the sum of fifty pounds Sterling to be paid into their hands
by my Executors herein after named, within one Year next after
my decease, and my will is that they with the Consent of the vestry
of same parish (if it may be) or the major part of them put and
Continue out at Interest or otherwise imploy the same from
time to time and at all times hereafter for Ever and the Yearly
profitts and Increase thereof to be distributed and paid once in
the Year by the Churchwarden of said parish for the time being
by such part and portions and in manner and forme following
(Vizt.) to Eight poor house keepers of said parish as they shall
think most indigent four shillings apeice And the residue of such
yearly interest and increase to be yearly made or ariseing of the
same fifty pounds, to be yearly paid into the hands of the Masters
of the Company of Coopers within Said City for the time being
and by them to be distributed to four poor men and Women or
four poor men or Women of severall families such as said Masters
shall think fitt. Ordered that the Executors of the said Mr.
Mathew Worgon have the thanks of this Court for the Same and
that the Said gift be put up in the Table of Benefactors in the
form following (vizt.) Mr. John Worgan late of this City Wine
Cooper by his Will gave fifty pounds the profit thereof for Ever
to go to the poor in manner as by the said Will is directed.

Ordered that Captain Andrews and Mr. Samuel Jacob¹ be desired November
to request the Mayor and Aldermen of this City in the Name of 21.
this Court to Order their Constaples to Inspect their severall
Wards for all Strangers and Single Women living at their own
hands that are likely to become chargable to this Corporation
and make returns of their severall Names to the Justices once in
every Month at the least and that the severall Guardians do
attend the said Constaples and Make report thereof to this Court.

Ordered that the Several Guardians of this City do use their utmost 1700-1.
Endeavour to Apprehend all Beggars and Vagrants that Shall be January 23.
found in this city during the fair and bring them before this Court
in order to be proceeded against according to Law And that Orders
to this purpose under the lesser Seale of this Corporation be put
up at the Severall Gates and other publick places in this City.

¹ For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

1700-1.
February
13.

Applycation being made to this court by Sir Thomas Day Deputy Mayor in the behalfe of John Tippet a poor Child of St. Thomas parish for forty shillings in Order to place the said John Tippet into the Boys Hospitall in this City Ordered that forty shillings be paid accordinly by the Treasurer to Mr. William James in Order to place the Said Child into the Said Hospitall.

The Governour maketh report that the Mayor and Aldermen of this City have agreed to lend this Corporation two hundred pounds (being part of the gift of Alderman Robert Alworth deceased)¹ for ten Years without Interest to be used as a Stock in Setting the poor to work under the care of this Corporation and have agreed to take Obligations under the Seal of this Corporation for securing the repayment of the same it is Ordered that the Treasurer do receive the said two hundred pound and that the Governour do give four Several Obligations under the greater Seale of this Corporation each of one hundred pound penalty Conditioned for the payment of fifty pounds at Such time as shall be mentioned in the Said Conditions and that the Governour Deputy Governour and Major Wade do give the Mayor and Aldermen the Humble thanks of this Corporation for the lone of the Said money.

February
27.

Ordered that the Committee of this house do sell the Fustians that are ready made not abating more then twelve pence on each peece of the last Sold for.

Ordered that the boys now Employed in this house in heading pinns be Immediatly Employed again in making fustians and for the future that no boys in this house be Employd in any other business without the leave of this Court

1701.
March 27.

Ordered that it be referred to the Committee of the Mint Work house to treat and agree with the Mercers Drapers and others for all the Fustians that are unSold or to be made in that house and to make what abatement therein they Shall think fitt as also on them that are Sold since the order of the last Court

June 12.

The Committee appointed to Consider of the present State of the Stock of this Corporation do report as followeth, vizt., That it appears to them that the Stock in Trade belonging to the Mint-Work-house amounts unto fifteen hundred Seventy one pound four Shileings and five pence ; and that the Stock of the

¹ See above, p. 42, and footnote.

New Work-house amounts unto two hundred twenty Eight ^{1701.} pounds ten Shillings and five pence ; and that there remains in the Treasurers hands three hundred pounds, and fifty pounds by the gift of Mr. John Swymmer deceased and one hundred pounds a gift of Mrs. Bickham to the parish of St. Austins now in the hands of Mr. Cobb, and ten pound the gift of Mr. Reed deceased in the hands of Mr. Ossield it is our Opinion that with the Severall summes of money last mentioned and what may be Spared out of the Stock of the Mintwork house with Eight hundred pounds wee hope to have the loan of from the City it will be to the Advantage of this Corporation to Accept of the propossalls made by Mr. Page for the purchas of his estate at Sheirhampton ¹ and it were heart'ly wished that those Gentlemen whose good dispositions Inclines to Extend their Charity to this good work would Speedily exert it and then there would Still be a good bank of Cash for to lay out as Oppertunity presents as Also what will be Necessary for the paying the Guardians that pays the poor of the severall parishes their accounts and the Maintenance of the Work-houses till the Money Can be paid in from the Church wardens and overseers &c. This Court do agree with the above report of the Commitee provided they Can prevail with the City for the loan of Eight hundred pounds.

Mr. Samuel Whitchurch ² Informing this Court that one Mary July 3. Shaply of Temple parish is likely to become Chargeable to this Corporation hath Sixteen pounds in Money which She is is Willing to give to this Corporation if they will pay her fifty two Shillings per anno for it during her life by equall quarterly payments Ordered that this-Court do Accept of the Said money and that On payment thereof to the Treasurer a Grant be made to the Said Mary Shaply under the Seale of this Corporation for the Said Annuity the first payment to be made at at Michaelmas Next.

Edward Pettman being one that is likey to become Chargeable August 22.

to this Corporation proposes to pay $\begin{matrix} \text{£} & \text{s} & \text{d} \\ & 6 & -11-6 \end{matrix}$ to this Corporation

¹ This estate, bought from Mr. Page in 1701 for £1,600, and let then for £85 per annum, was in 1826 let for about £340 per annum (Johnson, *Transactions*). It consisted of (a) a mansion house, gardens, orchard, etc., in Shirehampton street, covering about 13 acres, (b) dwelling house at Hungroad with about 16 acres, (c) 112 acres of pasture and arable land in and near Shirehampton.

² Guardian 1698-1702.

1701. provided that he have 12^d per week allowed him during his Life Ordered that his proposal be accepted and that he have a grant of 12^d per week under the seal of this corporation during his Life on payment of the Mony to the Treasurer
- October 1. Ordered that Mr. John Cooke be reimbursed 5*l* by the Treasurer out of Mr. Colston gift¹ he having paid Soe much to bind Thomas Cadgugan a poor boy of St. Nicholas parish apprentice to Thomas Richardson Shipwright belonging to his Majesties Yards at Porchmoth
- November 6. Ordered that it be referred to the Committee to provide a place in this house to put up the others of the damasks loomes in order to Imploy Some of the boys in this house in weaving and to save rents paid else where for them
- November 18. Ordered that Mr. Deputy Governor Mr. Alderman Batcheler Mr. Riston Mr. William Bayly Sir Samuel Jacob Mr. Treasurer Mr. Henry Samson² or any three of them whereof the Deputy Governor to be one be a committee to treat and agree with Henry Lang or any other freeman Skilfull in weaving to Instruct the boys in this house in the damask and other worsted Manufactur and report it to the Next Court

Thomas Parsons and Edward Roach two poor boys in this house being accused and convicted by their own Confession of Stealeing Stocking, vizt, Parsons for Stealing and selling one pair of Stocking and Roach for Carrying of one pare Ditto out of this his house and giving them to his Mother Ordered that the Said Parsons and Roach be Stript naked to the waist and that Parsons have 5 spipes and Roach 3 strip giving him given him one the bare back by John Gifford with a Burching rodd in the presents of the rest of the Boys in this house

Ordered that the Guardians of each ward to gether with the Church wardens and Constaples be desired to Inspect the Severall parish of this city after Intruders and Strangers into the Said

¹ On his tomb in All Saints Church, Colston's gift to the Corporation is recorded as follows: "To the Mint Work House and for placing out poor children 200." The Guardians' records mention no specific direction accompanying the gift. See also below, under date 5th March, 1701.

² For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

City that are Lakly to become chargeable to this Corporation and make a report thereof to the Mayor and Alderman in order that they may be removed to their proper place of settlement ^{1701.}

Ordered that Mr. Treasurer do pay Christopher Clymer a yong man of St. Stephen parish block-maker five pound out of Mr. Colstons gift in order to sett up his trade his father being very Sick and not able to maintain him Selfe nor famiely ^{March 15.}

Ordered that Alderman Bacheler Sir John Dudleston Mr. Treasurer Mr. Thomas Edwards and Mr. Samuel Jacob do to morrow Moring wait on the Mayor and Aldermen about the Vagrants that are Sent to this City to be transported to Ireland or else wher in order to Settle a method how to despose of them for the future <sup>1702.
March 26.</sup>

Jesse Andrews and Thomas Ellis to poor Boys in this house being accused and conviceted of runing away and Absenting themselves for Severall days out of their servis here ^{April 16.}

Ordered that they be Stript Naked to the waist and given three Strips Each on the Naked backs with a whip of Strings by John Gifford

Ordered that it be referred to a a committee to put to sale the goods that are made and finish at each workhouse belonging to this Corporation according to the best of their discretion ^{October 29.}

The Committee appointed to make Sale of the severall goods made in the work house belonging to this corporation do reporte as followeth viz¹ ^{November 19.}

Ordered that all those Gentlemen that have bought the severl lotts as Above be Allowed £3 per cent provided they pay in the Several Summes to the Treasurer or his order on or before the 2^d of december Next and in case they omitt the payment of the Said Money by that time that the Treasure be allowed the same discount in Lew of such summes

Whearas this Court was this day Informed that Several Strangers going for Ireland and others passing through this city have been Sent to this house for reliefe or to the Guardians of the Poor to provid for their transportation and this Corporation not chargeable by law with any Such person or persons, Orderd ^{January 19.}

¹ Report not given in minutes.

1702. that for the future no Guardian do disburst any mony on Such a count without order of this court or committee of the committee of Poor and that the Master of this house do receive no such person without order of this court or of the Committee of the Mintwork house.

1702-3.
February
11. Mr. Thomas Callowhill moveing to this Court that there is about 300 Ends of wrought fustians in this house fitt for Sale and 19 pieces of Hurgr¹ Ordered that Mr. Thomas Callowhill Mr. Onesiphorus Tyndall Mr. Henry Samson Mr. Samuel Jacob Mr. Benjamin Coole Mr. John Cooke Mr. Treasurer Mr. Joseph Willoughby Mr. William Higg² be a Committee and any three of them a Quoram to dispose of them by Sale or Whiteing of the Said in what methed they think fit

March 11. Ordered that the Committee of the Mint work house do despose of the fustians that is or shall be wrought (as also Hugerbacks³ in) this house either by Sale or Whitening as they shall think fitt

Abraham Quail a poor boy in this house being acused and Convicted of Reuning a way from this house Severall times and neglecting his work and temping others to do the Same Ordered that he be stript naked to the waist that John Gifford do give him 6 Stripes on his naked back at the Whiping post in the court yard with a Whip of — cords at the riosing of this Court John Watkins pardoned it being the first ofence also Thomas Andrews being convicted of runing away twice from this house Ordered that be given three Stripes on his naked back at the Whiping post with a whip of cords at the same time.

1703.
April 20. Wheras a Complaint is made to this Court by John Gifford that a report hath been spred abroad by one Jesper Horwood of St. Nicholas parish that the Said John Gifford had So Severly corrected one of the Girles in the New work house that she died there of which report appears to this Court to be uterly falce it Is therefore desired that the Mayor and Aldermen will send for the said Horwood before them and take Such couse with him as in their Wisdom Shall Seme Meet

¹ See below, under date 11th March.

² For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

³ Huckabacks (?)

Nathaniel Wade Esquire and [20 other Guardians named] 1703.
 be a committee and any three of them a Quorum to Examinate into
 the Case of Strangers and aliother disorderly persons that Comes
 to Live in this City and Single women living at their own hands
 that are likly to become Chargeable to this Corporation. and
 that it be an Instruction to this Committe to prevaile with the
 Alderman of Each ward or in his Absence with some other
 Alderman to meete with the Guardians Churchwards and Overseer
 of each parish once in every quarter of a Year in Some Convenient
 place in the parish. for Examination of people that come to Settle
 in Said parishes contrary to Law to the intent they may be
 removed, and that they may particularly take care about workmen
 belonging to. Glashouses and Tydsman¹ to prevent their coming
 chargeable to Said parishes. and that the Committee do meet here
 on thursday Next at 10 a clock in the Mornig.

Whereas Ann Bucher Singel Woman being very Sick and weak May 4.
 is sent to this house by Alderman Wallis and it appearing that
 She hath no settlement here Ordered that She be taken Care of
 in this house for the present till she be able to be removed to her
 proper place of Settlement.

Ordered that the Several poor persons under the care of this September
 Corporation now afflicted in the Kings Evile not Exceeding 21.
 the Number of twelve be Sent to Bath at the Charge of this
 Corporation in order to have a touch from the Queen for a Cure
 and that the Surgeon belonging to this Corporation do nominate
 Such as are most afflicted there with and that the Surgeon do
 attend here tomorrow Moring 9 a clock

Ordered that the Committee of the Mint Work house do proceed November
 to Make Sale of the Goods that is Wrought up in this house at 4.
 Such prices as they Shall think fitt.

Ordered that the Guardians of St. Nicholas parish that pay the 1704.
 poor do pay to William Hurtnall £2. 15s. being in full for arears March 28.
 of rent due from this Corporation for Peter Push in the year 1702
 and that the Guardians of St. Mary Port parish that pay the poor
 do pay the Said William Hurtnall £1—11s.—6d. being in full for

¹ " *Tidesman*, one whose work depends on the tide" (Murray. Quotes
 Ogilvie, 1882, " *Tidesman*, one who is employed only during certain states
 of the tide").

1704. arears of Rent due from this corporation for John Cook in the years 97 . 98 also pay one quarters Rent for the Widow Fowler amounting to 7s ending 24 June 99 and as to Gabrill Boorn there is no order for the payment of any rent for him therefore the Court takes no Notice of his demand
- April 13. Ordered that a Committee be Appointed to take care to place out some of the boys under the care of this Corporation Apprentice to the Sea according to a late Act of Parliament in that Case made and provided¹
- July 6. Sir Thomas Day reports that he have advice from Dr. Tyson² that if the Court will order Abraham Tompson up to London in Order to be Sett into Bedlam and Som person to give Surety to be at Charge of his bury all if he dyes or to receave him back a gaine to this Citty if he recouer to his sences that the Doctor will take order for his admittance into Bedlam this Courte paying the Charg of his Sending thethir and a Small fee to the Clark Ordered that the Comitty of the mint workhouse doe take care to Effect it and that the Seale of the Corperation be giuen for Securyty
- March 8. A motion being made representing that the Hospitall in the Collage green³ is now rebuilding by reason Whereof the Governors of Said Hospitall will be Destitute of a house to receive the boys of Said Hospital being in Number 36 and that this Court be desired to receive and provide for Said boys in the Mint Work house till the Said Hospitall Shall be fitt to receive them upon Such reasonable termes as Shall be agreed upon between the Govrnours and this Corporation it is Ordered that the Said boys belonging to the Said Hospitall not Exceeding the Number of

¹ 2 and 3 Anne cap. 6. It empowered Churchwardens and Overseers to bind any boy over ten years of age, found begging or chargeable to the parish, apprentice to the master or owner of any British ship until the age of 21. The parish might pay the master 50s. ; shipmasters might be made to take one such apprentice for every vessel of 30-50 tons burthen, two for 50-100 tons burthen, and another for every further 100 tons burthen (Nichols, *History of the English Poor Law*, vol. i, pp. 362-63). The zeal of the Committee here appointed may be judged by the fact that twenty-eight such apprentices were bound at one sitting on 18th October, 1704.

² A benefactor of the Corporation and Honorary Guardian since February, 1698.

³ Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, which had occupied since its opening in 1590 the mansion and orchard in College Green known as the Gaunts' Hospital. This estate had been bought by the City for £1,000 upon the dissolution of the Hospital in Henry VIII's reign. When the house was rebuilt in 1706 the Guardians' offer to accommodate the boys was accepted.

36 be at a Lady day next received into the Mint Work house ^{1704.} and provided for there till the Sad Hospital shall be fitt to receive them So it Exceed not the terme of one Yeare upon Such terms as the said Governors and this Corporation shall assigne And that it be refered to a committee to Ajust termes with the Said Governors and report the same to the next Court

Ordered that It be referred to the Committes of both Work house ^{1705.} to Imploy the Children thereof in any labour that may Prove ^{April 19.} advantageous to this Corporation
its also refererd to the Committee of the Mint work house to consider of a Sale of the wrought goods in this house

Whereas Complaint hath been made to this Court that Severall ^{September} of the Girles bound Apprentice from the Newwork house belonging ^{4.} to this Corporation themselves having absented from their service¹ and Idleing about the Streets Orderd that the Committe of that House do Inspect that matter and to take care therein

John Gifford having brought into this Court an Account of the ^{November} Girls that have Absented them-Selves from their Services he is ^{13.} orderd to take them up and have them before the Mayor and Aldermen that they be proceeded against according to Law

Whereas Charles Jeffryes Joyner Son of Edward Jeffryes late of ^{1706.} the parish of St. Augustins the Less in the City of Bristoll Joyner ^{September} is appointed an Almsman of the Hospitall of the Colledge of Sion ^{5.} in the city of London ² and the Governer of Said Hospitall requiring as usuall a bond from the Churchwardens of the said parish or this Corporation to Save them harmless from any Extreordinary Charge that may be by reason of his Sicknes or buriall &c it is ordered that the Seal of this Corporation be given to the Said Hospitall to Secure them from any Such Charge

Ordered that the Committee for the house do provide blocks and Malls and other Necessarys for the beating of hemp and dressing of Flax or any other Imploy in the dungeon belonging to this house in order to Sett Idle disorderly persons at Work according to the Act of parliament in that Case provided

¹ The words "are Set at Liberty by their Masters" have been cancelled here, and the words "themselves . . . service" inserted.

² Founded as a gild of parochial clergy, a college and almshouse by the will of Dr. Thomas White in 1623.

1707.
July 3. Ordered that the Committee for this house do meet here on Teusday the 8th Instant at 3 a clock in the Afternoon in order to Make Sale of the fustians and other wrought Goods in this house

October 9. Pursuant to an Order of the last Court a request was delivered in to the Mayor and Aldermen of this City as followeth (vizt.)

To the Right Worshipful William Whitehead Esquire Mayor of the City of Bristoll and the Worshipful the Aldermen of the Same City.

The Humble request of the Court of Guardians of the Poor held in the Mint Workhouse on the 15th day of September 1707

Whereas there has been for times past many Inhabitants that have not had right of Settlement in this City which have nevertheless been Addmitted into Annual Offices in the Said City by Which Means they have Obtained a Settlement here and afterwards become Chargeable to the Said Corporation

These are therefore Humbly to request your Worships that you would be pleased Not to Admitt of any Such Persons into Annual Offices Which in Your Worships Judgement are likly to become Chargeable to the Said Corporation

November
21. A debate arising whethre any Person could gain a Settlement in this City by reason only of being a free Burges thereof having no other right thereto it is the Oppinon ofthis Court that no Such Person mearly by his being a free burges and having no other right Can have any Such Settlement in this City. Ordered that any such Person be removed or care be taken to Indempnyfie this Corporation from any Charge that may Insue by Such Pretended settlement

February
12. Ordered that the Committee of the poor do take into their Conseratino the case of Mr. Skinker to give Some money to ward the placeing out his Son Apprentice as in their discretion Shall Seem Meet

1708.
September
9. The Right Reverend father in God John Lord Bishop of Bristol¹ having formerly given £50 to the Poor under the Care of this Corporation and have now again by the hands of Thomas Edwards Esquire given £50 as a further Charity to be Chiefly laid out in buying bibles to give to poor Children which shall be placed out apprentice or otherwise, and the said £50 being paid into the hands of Mr. Mark Goddard Treasurer Ordered that his Lordship have

¹ John Hall, Bishop from 1691 until his death, 4th February, 1709.

the thanks of this Court returned to his Lordshipp by Mr. Thomas Edward for the Same and that, his Name be put up in the Table of Benefactors 1708.

The Petition or representacion of a Committee appointed att a generall Court of Guardians of the poor in this City held att the Mintworkhouse in the month of October last Setting forth the miseries and distresses of the poor praying this house to represent their Case to our members of Parliament to be represented to the house of Commons and that they would use their endeavors to gett a power by a Clause in some act of Parliament to enable this house and their successors for the time being upon any extraordinary emergency to raise a fifth quarterly payment or as they shall think necessary to prevent the like Calamity falling on the poor hereafter and also to oblige the parishes of Temple and St. James in this City whose poore are more burdensome then any other parishes) to account with the Court of Guardians for all the money given to the poor in their respective parishes and for the profitts of the two fairs held in them² and to oblige them to pay as much out of the same into the Treasurer of the said Court every yeare as will make upp the summe expended on the poor of their parishes the preceeding yeere. 1709. December 14.¹

The Committee appointed by the last Court to Wait on the Mayor and Aldermen of this City to borrow 350 for the use of this Corporation; doth report that they have accordingly don the Same and that the Mayor and Aldermen have granted the aforesaid Summe of £350 for Seven Years free from Interest provided Security be given them and whereas this Corporation do allready Owe £12000³ to the Said City it is Ordered that the Estate at Sherhampton be Mortgaged to the Maryor Aldermen and Commonalty of the Said City for the whole Summe of fifteen hundred and fifty pound without Interest if required and then the Corporation Seale to be taken up for the Sums allready borrow upon it, and the Same Committee do take care to gett it done. 1710. October 12.

¹ From *Common Council Proceedings*.

² The fair in Temple Parish was held annually for eight days, under a grant of Edward VI. By an indenture of 28th September, 1626, between the Mayor and Commonalty, and the Churchwardens and other parishioners, the latter agreed to "bestow all the . . . revenues and profits [of the fair] . . . to the only relief, maintenance and sustentation of the poor people of the said parish and the reparations of the conduits for water . . . and the water-courses thereunto belonging."

³ A clerical error for £1,200.

1710.
February
15.¹

The Petition and representation of the Governor deputy Governor assistants and Guardians of the poor in this City being read which settts forth the Care they have taken of the poor and the severall reasons why the present summe of £2376: 16 : 05 which is all can be raised by the Act of Parliament is very short and the Corporacion is nott able to subsistt And therefore pray that if the house thinks the support of that Corporacion to be usefull to the City and the best method for support of the poor that they would petition the Parliament that that there may a power be granted to raise a summe annually nott less than £700 over and above the summe aforesaid without which the said Corporacion must fall and some other methods must be taken for maintainance of the poor

The first Question putt was whether the present method of providing for the maintainance of the poor by the said Corporacion is more beneficial to the City and Citizens and to the poor themselves then when they were under the Care of the Churchwardens and Overseers of the poor in the respective parishes And after long debate Itt was resolved nemine contradicente that the Corporacion is the best method and itt is the opinion of this house that the poor could nott by the old method be maintained with less then neare double the charge they are now att.

Resolved further that this house will second a petition from the said Corporacion to the Parliament by another petition

1712.
January 7.

Whereas there was a Committee appointed by the late Court to Draw up a Peticion to the Parliament for a Farther Annuall Supply for the maintenance of the poor of this Citty a draft of A petition is now presented by the Said Committee to this Court and is as underwritten

To the Honourable the Commons of
Great Brittain in Parliament Assembled
The humble Peticion of the Governor Deputy
Governor Guardians and Assistants (being the
Corporacion for the Poor) of the Citty of Bristoll

Humbly Sheweth

That in the 7th and 8th year of the Reign of the late King William the 3^d an act of Parliament was made for erecting hospitalls and workhouses within the Citty of

¹ From *Common Council Proceedings*.

Bristoll for the better Employing and maintaining the poor ^{1712.} thereof by which act the said Corporacion had and hath the whole Care of all the poor in the said Citty Committed to them and thereby power is given them to raise for the maintenance of the poor any Summes not exceeding what had been paid in the Said Citty towards their Support in any one of the then 3 last yeares which was computed to be but the yearly Summe of £2376—16—5 which the Said Corporacion then accepted of although it was much more upon which Establishment together with the Summe of Five thousand pounds raised by the said Act in the first three yeares for Erecting Workhouses, and houses of Correction as also with Severall large Summes¹ afterwards contributed by Charitable Benefactors the Said Corporacion carried on the Employment and maintenance of the poor for Severall yeares and not only comfortably Subsisted the aged and decayed but also maintain'd Educated and employed great numbers of Children and younger Poor binding out many hundreds of apprentices and thereby in great measure prevented Comon begging, idleness and debauchery. The Citty of Bristoll being very Considerably enlargd and its Inhabitants (as well Rich as Poor increasd Since the passing of the aforesaid act by which meanes together with many Fathers of Familys lost in the warrs and other Casualties the Annuall Summe of two thousand three hundred £76—16—5 then given has Fallen Short in Supplying the wants of the Poor who must have layn under extream difficulties had not the Benefactions and Severall Summes borrow'd been employd to make good the defficiencyes each year and being no longer able to maintain the Poor without a Farther Supply and humbly Conceiving this of a Corporated body to be the best Method for this Citty to Provide for their poor desire leave of this honourable house to bring in a bill to enable the Said Corporacion to raise a Farther annuall Summe not exceeding £1200 for the effectuall employing educating and maintaining the Said Poor

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Brittain ^{1713.}
in Parliament Assembled. February

The Humble Petition of the Mayor Burgesses and
Commonalty of the City of Bristoll assembled in Common
Councill. ^{26.²}

¹ At the date of the petition these gifts totalled £4,240, and a house in High Street.

² From *Common Council Proceedings*.

1713.

SHEWETH

That in the Seventh and Eighth Yeares of the reigne of the Late King William the Third a Corporacon was Constituted by Act of parliament entituled an Act for erecting of Hospitalls and workhouses within the City of Bristoll for the better employing and maintaining the Poor thereof with liberty to raise for their employment and mainteynance the largest payment that had been made in any one of the Three last yeares preceding the Said Act which was Computed to amount to Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six pounds Sixteen Shillings and Five pence and no more Altho a much greater Summe was att that time paid by the Churchwardens and Overseers for maintaining the Poor of the Sevrall Parishes and precinct of the Said City by reason that in that Computacon they had omitted to make any allowance for the payments usually made to Great numbers of Casuall Poor which yearly amounted to a very Considerable Summe By which Omission and dayly Increase the Poor Since that time the decay of the Sevrall Manufactures and the loss of many Masters and Fathers of Families in the Warr by Sea and Land and other misfortunes The Said Corporacon which alwayes Consisted of the most honest Carefull and Industrious Inhabitants duely Chosen out of the Sevrall Parishes and precinct hath not only Expended the said Annuall Sume of Two Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Six pounds Sixteene Shillings and Five pence and also the moneys that remained of the Five Thousand pounds raised by the Said Act for purchassing building repairing and fitting upp Workhouses and Houses of Correction but likewise a farther Summe of Four Thousand Three Hundred and Sixty pounds and Fifteen Shillings principall money given by Sevrall Charitable Benefactors to the said Corporacion with the intent that the interest only Should be annually applyed for the better maintainance of the poor of the Said City notwithstanding which Additionall bounties they have likewise contracted Sevrall Debts Still growing Heavier upon them by the dayly Increase of the poor So that the Said Corporacon will unavoidably Sinke and great Numbers of Aged and Young Poor that have been maintained educated and employed in their respective workhouses and there by till of late restrayned from begging from door to Door will probably returne to their former Idleness and debauchery So that the great Expence and paines already bestowed upon this good and Charitable worke will be intirely lost.

Your Petitioners therefore Humbly pray that leave may be

given to bring in a Bill whereby the Majestrates may be enabled ^{1713.}
to raise Such Farther Summe which together with the aforesaid
Summe of Two Thousand Three Hundred Seaventy Six pounds
Sixteene Shillings and Fivepence granted by the Said Former
Act may not annually exceed in the whole the Summe of Three
Thousand Five Hundred pounds for the better Employing and
maintaining the Poor thereof as also for releiving casuall poor
not provided for by the Said Act

And your Petitioners Shall ever pray &c.

Whereas there was an order made at the last Court that the Town ^{1714.}
Clark Major Wade and Giles Eyres Esquire Should give their ^{January 5.}
opinion whether the Charges of passing Vagrants &c Should be
defrayd by the Mint Act or the Vagrant Act which accordingly
was delivered in by Giles Eyre Esquire and put to the Vote and
passd that it Should not be defrayd by the Mint Act

Mr. John Day acquainted the house that he was appointed ^{1715.}
pursueant to the order of this house in the yeare 1714 to procure ^{February}
an Act of Parliament for an adicionall Summe of about £1200 ^{7.¹}
per annum to be charged upon this City for the imployment and
maintenance of the poor here and that he had layd out in that
affair the Summe of £139 : 16 : 6 of which he produced a note of
particulars which being read the house approved thereof and
ordered Mr. Chamberlain for the present to advance the said
Summes to Mr. Day and take his receipt for the same and to
charge and add that money in his books to the other debts due to
the Mayor Burgesses and Commonalty from the Corporacion of the
poore in order that itt may be repayd to the Chamber in due time.

Whereas it appeares to this Court that there are Sundry arrears ^{1716.}
due from Severall parrishes to this Corporacion on their ^{February}
Assessments to the poor as folo ^{14.}

Christ Church	—	1709	—	—	£10 „ 12 — $\frac{1}{2}$
Ditto	—	—	1710	—	1 „ 2 „ 1
Ditto	—	—	1714	—	6 „ 11 „ 6
St. Werburgh	—	1712	—	—	34 „ — „ 10
St. Michaels	—	1712	—	—	1 „ 1 „ 4
Temple	—	1712	—	—	£1 „ 10 „ —
Redcliffe	—	1714	—	—	£6 „ 5 „ 1
St. Leonards	—	1714	—	—	15 — 15 „ 8
St. Stephens	—	1715	—	—	103 — 1 — 8
					<hr/> 180 „ — „ 2 $\frac{1}{2}$

¹ From *Common Council Proceedings*.

1716. the whole amounting unto one hundred and eighty pounds two pence halfe penny it is therefore ordered by this Court that Mr. Governor Mr. Deputy Governor Mr. Treasurer and the twelve assestants or any 5 of them be a Committee appointed to take such methods as the Law Shall direct for recovering the Same

1717.
May 15.¹ Mr. Mayor acquainted the house that the calling this house was occasioned by reason of some misunderstandings in the management of the Corporacion of the poor within this City which arise from defects in the Act of Parliament which established that Corporacion and particularly that Act does not contain sufficient powers' to coerce such as shall be chosen to Serve as members or officers in or under the said Corporacion to undertake the same nor dos explain sufficiently who and what sort of poor people shall be deem'd casual poor And thereupon a petition to the House of Commons was read mencioning all the defects complain'd of and praying to have the same redress'd by a new Law. the house agreed to the said petition

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled.

The humble petition of the Mayor Burgesses and Commonalty of the City of Bristoll.

Humbly Sheweth

That on the petition of the then Mayor Burgesses and Commonalty of the said City an Act passed in the 12th year of the Reign of her late Majesty Queen Anne Intituled an Act for making more effectual an Act passed in the 7th and 8th year of the Reign of his late Majesty King William the Third By which said Act the Mayor and Aldermen of Bristoll for the time being and their Successors for ever have power to raise and levy annually such . . . Sum or Sums of money . . . as shall not . . . exceed the Sum of £3500 : in any one year for the better imploying and maintaining the poor of the said City and for releiving the casual poor and payment of the debts of the said Corporacion of the poor. Which together with the many and great Charities given by worthy Benefactors of the present and former times they were of opinion might be Sufficent not only to maintain all the poor belonging to the said City but likewise to releive and defray the expence of all

¹ From *Common Council Proceedings*.

such casual poor who should happen to come or be sent hither ^{1717.} according to Law. But the Corporacion of the poor who have annually received all the said £3500 : raised by virtue of the said act refuse to take care of or provide for any casual Poor who do not immediately belong to this City or to pass them forward or to releive them during the time they are necessitated to remain here whereby they are forced to begg in the Streets to the great disturbance and Scandal of the Inhabitants.

Your petitioners likewise find the said Corporacion under great difficulties by several persons refusing to take upon them the office of Guardian of the poor or to perform that duty when legally elected As also that the said Act of the 12th of her said late Majesty hath disqualified several persons to be Guardians who formerly were very active in the Service of the said Corporacion¹ And that office being now become more burthensome by the encrease of the poor very many of the Inhabitants who are qualified as the Law directs endeavour to avoid Serving it. And the Churchwardens of the several parishes whose duty it was heretofore to pay and take care of the poor being by the said Act appointed Guardians, now think themselves under no obligation to perform that Service.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that this Honourable House will give leave that a Bill may be brought in for further explaining and amending the several Acts relating to the officers and Guardians of the Corporacion of the poor of this City and to enable and oblige the said Corporacion not only to take care of and provide for all such poor as immediately belong to them but also to releive and defray the expence of such casual poor as may come or shall at any time hereafter be sent hither pursuant to the Laws of this Kingdom.

And Your petitioners etc.

Ordered that William Woodward be Steward of the Mint ^{February} Workhouse in the Room of Mr. G. Pressy (lately deceased) ^{13.} during the pleasure of this Court at the rate of three shillings per week and his Tableing

¹ The Act had disqualified for the office of Guardian any " who shall not have taken the Sacrament according to the Rites of the Church of England." The Act of 1718 annulled this clause as being " very detrimental . . . by disqualifying great numbers of Persons very fit to be Members of the same [Corporation] . . . ; by not only bringing the whole Burthen of managing the Affairs of the said Corporation upon others . . . but also by making it very difficult to find out a sufficient Number of proper and well qualified Persons . . . to be elected . . . Guardians."

1717. Ordered that John Rossiter be Beadle to this Corporacion in the Room of Thomas Bull (lately deceased) at the yearly Sallary of Eight pounds and his Tableing
Ordered that Mrs. Ann Nichols be Mistriss of this house under the Corporacion in the Room of Mrs. Mary Evans the late Mistriss (whome wee do now discharge) at the yearly Sallary of Six pounds and her Tableing—during the pleasure of this Court

1718.
June 12. Ordered by this Court that John Jayne the present Clark to this Corporacion be paid eight pounds per annum more than whatt he had allowed before thistime for which the boys of this house that learns writing and arithmetick shall be taught three halfe dayes more every week (except they be at work or holy dayes) then they was formerly taught to comence Midsummer day next

Ordered that any three of the Committee for the house be appointed to wait on mr. Hugh Waterman¹ and desire him to give them a Form of Prayer to be used daily among the people in this house—to be collected out of the Book of Comon prayer

1720.
June 9. Ordered that warrants be Isued out by the Governor Deputy Governor &c to each Guardian of this Corporacion to Impower them to Seize and apprehend all Rogues Vagrants and Sturdy beggers, and Idle and disorderly persons and to bring them to the Mint to be proceeded against according to Law

Ordered that each Guardian of this Corporacion have a list, of all Cirtificates² (given to this Corporacion) belonging to the parrish Whereof he is pay Guardian

August 11. Ordered that all the Pay Guardians in this City pay no more then Eight Shillings for Coffin and all other charges for burying any one poor person in their respective parrishes.

Ordered that the Committee of the house (if they see fitt) do give Mr. Jos' Filey notice that he quitt the Room he hath in this house at Michaelmas next in order for the putting of it to the use of this Corporacion and also that Said Committee do take into the

¹ "Minister of St. Peter's"; preached the annual sermon before the Guardians twelve times between 1703 and 1722.

² *i.e.* of Settlement.

house any Sort of work to imploy the poor people that Shall be 1720.
taken into this house—

Mr. Mayor took notice to the house that the house of Correccion August 11.¹
or Bridewel was very ruinous and in great decay and proposed
that it might be pull'd down and rebuilt in a form more useful
but the Corporacion of the poor in this City having formerly had
leave to make use of part of that house now called White-hall²
do now refuse to deliver up the possession

It is . . . order'd that before new structure be begun
upon Mr. Henry Fane be employ'd as Attorney or Sollicitor to
advise with Counsel and by due course and order of Law to
recover the possession of that part thereof which is now in the
tenure of the said Corporacion of the poor or their assignes.

It is further order'd that there being the sum of fifteen hundred
and fifty pounds principal money besides interest due to the
Chamber of this City for moneys lent to the Corporacion of the
poor on a Mortgage of an estate situate at Shirehampton in the
County of Gloster as also the sum of six hundred pounds and
interest due in like manner on a Mortgage of the Mint Work-house
which several sums of money having been demanded the said
Corporacion of the poor have refused to pay the same the said
Mr. Fane be employ'd to enter upon both the mortgaged premises
and to recover the possession thereof or otherwise to recover the
principal money and interest thereof as Counsel shall advise. . . .

Upon the motion Mr. Alderman Hicks³ present Governour of 1724.
the Corporacon of the poor of this City it is ordered that on February
payment of soe much of the debt due from the said Corporation 27.
to the Chamber of this City on a Mortgage of divers lands and
Tenements as will reduce the same to Three hundred pounds or
thereabouts the Mortgage writings be delivered upp and an
obligation only under that Corporation Seale be accepted for
what shall remain due payable to the Chamberlain with legall
interest and that all interest moneys now due on the said Mortgage
be remitted and forgiven to the said Corporation It is also ordered
that the Charges the City hath been at in an Ejectment brought
for the possession of those mortgaged premises be remitted for
the same doe not exceed thirty pounds

¹ This and the following extract are from *Common Council Proceedings*.

² See above, under date 7th July, 1696.

³ For particulars of this Guardian, see Appendix.

1743.
June 9.

WHEREAS there hath been lately an Order of Sessions obtained from the Justices of this City, purporting that all Vagrants should from henceforth be Conveyed in the direct Road according to the Act of parliament made in the 13th year of the reign of his present Majesty and it is further Ordered that all Masters and Keepers of all and every House and Houses of Correction within this City and County are not to receive any Vagrant or Vagrants illegally conveyed

Therefore It is by this Court Ordered that no Master or Masters Keeper or Keepers of all and every the House or Houses of Correction within this City and County do receive any Vagrant or Vagrants illegally conveyed out of the direct or proper Road from any Adjacent County to some other County Town or place unless this City shall actually be the direct Road And that if any Law Suit should arise thereby the same to be brought or defended out of the Revenue of this Corporation—

October 20. Pursuant to an Order made at a General Court held the 19th of July last, what should be thought Requisite to ease and save the great Expence this Corporation has been at, was referred to the Consideration of the Committee—By virtue and in pursuance of which Order, after an Inspection of the House held this 20th day of September We the Committee having taken into Consideration the Matter so as aforesaid recommended to us, at present report as follow Vizt :

First That Great Expence might be saved by Choosing an Apothecary that would take on him for a Settled yearly Sallery to Visit the Poor in and out of the House, give them proper Advice and Assistance, and supply them and also the Surgeons with Druggs and Medicins from time to time that will be proper for the use preservation and Benifit of such Poor People—

SECONDLY We apprehend that there is no Necessity of continuing the Lodge House in Milkstreet,¹ and that a Remote Room in this House will sufficiently Answer the same purpose,—

THIRDLY We also apprehend that one of the Beadles to this Corporation might be discharged, and that two are Sufficient to serve this Corporation in such Office.

¹ Used as a Sick House. See below, under dates 21st May, 1759, 12th February and 8th October, 1767. Johnson calls it Oldfield Lodge House, and says it was given up soon after 1798 (*Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor*, p. 123).

Whereas it has been found by experience that frequent Visitations of the Hospital Workhouse and the House of Correction belonging to this Corporation have greatly tended to the Good Government thereof, and hath been conduceive to the good ends for which this Corporation was erected, AND whereas divers by Laws have been made for obligeing all the Guardians of the Poor of the City to Attend the said Service in a certain Rotation prescribed by such By Laws, which by Laws have not had the desired effect, It is therefore, ordained and establised by this Court, and by the Authority thereof that all Persons now being or hereafter to be elected Guardians of the Poor of the said City shall in their turns and by Rotation from time to time Visit the said Hospital and Workhouse, and House of Correction once every day in the Year (Sundays and Frydays excepted)

1743.
February 9.

AND it is further ordained that every Guardian so Visiting shall at the time of such his Visitation diligently enquire into the State, and Condition of the said Hospital Workhouse and House of Correction, and of all Matters and things thereto belonging, and also into the State Condition, and Behaviour of all Persons residing or Employed in the same, and shall from time to time duely enter a report thereof in such Book or Books as shall from time to time be kept in the said Hospital for that Purpose

WHEREAS The laws in being obligeing the twelve assistants to this Corporation to serve only for one Year and some of the Gentlemen that are Chosen the second Year refusing to serve, whereby great ill Conveniencies will arise by reason of the new Assistants not knowing the Persons and Circumstances of the Poor, Therefore we give it as Our Opinion that Application may be made to Our Members in Parliament, that a Clause) without Expence to this Corporation) may be inserted in some act of Parliament . . . to oblige Six of the Assistants to serve the second Year . . . with the Six new Assistants Annually Chosen.¹

The Governor produced an Order under the hands of two Justices for an Allowance of 5s. per Week for Maintenance of Mrs. Radborn

¹ The Act of 18 Geo. II accordingly required the Corporation "to nominate and appoint" annually on the second Thursday in April "any Six of the present Twelve Assistants, . . . to continue Assistants for the Year next ensuing and no longer, and to elect . . . Six new or junior Assistants . . . to be and remain Assistants for the two next ensuing Years, and no longer." See also below, under date 11th October, 1744, clause 3 of Petition.

a Lunatick in this House and payment of Sundry her Debts out of her Effects which were locked up in this House with an Inventory of the Same And this Court do Resolve to allow an Interest for £90 of her Money, at 4 per Annum as long as this Corporation shall make use of the Same.

The Copy of the Order of the two Justices follows . . .

City and County } The Order of the right Worshipful John
of Bristol } Berrow Esquire Mayor of the City of Bristol
and of Stephen Clutterbuck Esquire Alderman
. for the releif of the said City from
Elizabeth Radborn Widow a Lunatick which
said Elizabeth since the 28th day of November
last hath been and now is chargeable to the
Corporation of the Poor of the said City and
is during such her Lunacy likely so to continue.

FIRST upon Examination of the Cause and Circumstances of the premises taken upon Oath We do find and adjudge that the said Elizabeth Radborn is a Lunatick and so far disordered in her Senses that it is dangerous for her to be permitted to go abroad and being possessed of Monies Goods and Chattles which may wholly or partly defray the Charges of her Maintenance Therefore we do order that she be continued to be confined in St. Peter's Hospital and that five Shillings shall Weekly and every Week from henceforth (only for so long time as such her Lunacy shall continue) be detained and paid out of her Monies and Effects by and to the Corporacion of the said Hospital for such her future Maintenance and keeping

AND we also order that the following Charges Expences and disbursements be reimbursed . . to the said Corporacion out of such her monies and effects . . . Vizt.

	£	s	d
For her maintenance and keeping from the time of her confinement to the date of this order being ten Weeks and 2 days at 5s. per Week - - - }	2	11	5
For three Quarters of a year Rent exclusive of Taxes due to William Cann Esquire - - - }	8	3	0
To George Bradford his attending two days making an Exact Inventory of all her Household Goods and Personal Effects and for drawing this Order - - - - - }	1	5	0
To Thomas Stokes for his trouble in searching the House and taking care of the Effects - - }	0	10	6

For the two Beadles of St. Peter's Hospital their	£	s	d	1743.
Waiting Several days in the House to take care				
of the Goods till removed vizt. from the 28 th	2	„	2	„ 0
November to the 21 st December and Expences of				
Coal and Candle - - - - -				
For two men their bringing her in a Chair to the	0	„	0	„ 6
Hospital - - - - -				
For halling her Goods from St. Michael's Hill to	0	„	6	„ 0
the Hospital - - - - -				
To the Glazier repairing the Windows (besides	0	„	8	„ 5
her own Glass) which she broke in her Lunacy,				
and appraising the Remainder of the Glass - -				
Total	15	„	6	„ 10

Given under our hands and Seals the day and year first above
Written

John Berrow Mayor
Stephen Clutterbuck

The Report of the Committee being read to this Court that it would be very Advantageous to this Corporation if the poor of this Hospital were to be employed in Picking Oakum On the Question being Put was agreed to and it is ordered that a Quantity of Junk be forthwith Purchased And it is also resolved and ordered that the Governor Deputy Governor and Assistants for the time being or any five of them whereof the Governor or Deputy Governor to be one, be a Committee for the Management of the same and that the Treasurer do pay for what Junk the said Committee shall order and that a Seperate Account be kept of this Affair in order to know the Gain or Loss by it.

City of Bristol	} to wit	At an Adjournment of the General	1744.
and County of		Quarter Sessions of the peace of our	June 14.
the same City		Lord the King holden . . . in the	
		Guildhall there on Wednesday the	
		13 th of June 1744	

In pursuance of an Act of Parliament made in the 17th year of his present Majestie's Reign Entitled an Act to Amend and make more Effectual the Laws relating to Rogues Vagabonds, and other Idle and disorderly persons and to Houses of Correccion. This Court now appointed the Rate per head to be paid to and

1744.

taken by all and every Master and Masters of any Ship Vessel or packet Boat, bound from hence for Ireland the Isles of Man, Jersey, Guernsey or Scilly for every such Vagrant brought and delivered to such Master or Masters as by the said Act is directed which Rate is as follows Vizt.

	£	s	d
Passage per Head for grown persons	-	-	0 „ 4 „ 0
Subsistance during the passage	-	-	0 „ 2 „ 6
Persons above two and under ten years of Age	}	0 „	3 „ 3
half as much as grown persons both as to passage			
and Subsistance			

Persons under two years of Age who go with others to whom they belong to be Conveyed Gratis

By the Court

Cann¹

October 11. The Governor acquainted the Court that notwithstanding the Utmost Diligence and Care of this Corporation and most thrifty and good Management of the Committee yet on lately settling the Treasurer's Account a ballance was Sunk this year of about £300. besides £90. of Mrs. Radborne's money that from hence and the three years preceding it was Evident the present Sum of £3500. allowed by Parliament was not Sufficient for the maintenance of the Poor in this City there being now owing to the Chamber £1000. £800. to the Treasurer including the above balance and £90 to Mrs. Radborne

So that by reason of the daily encrease of our Poor occasioned as he conceived by the decay of several Manufactures, the loss of many Masters and fathers of Families and others in the War by Sea and Land against France and Spain and by other Causes the Poor both on pay bill and casual were encreased more than one half of what they were four years ago So that this Corporacion must Sink Unless a further provision be made by Parliament for it's Support And therefore moved that the Governor Deputy Governor and Assistants or any five of them the Governor or Deputy Governor being one to be a Committee to draw up a Petition to Parliament for the following Purposes, Vizt.

1st To be enabled to raise the further Sum of £700 per Annum or any part with the Concurrence of the Mayor and Aldermen :

2^{dly} To raise £2000 in four Years to discharge the Debts already incurred and Still owing and increasing.

¹ Sir William Cann, Baronet, Town Clerk, 1731-53.

3—To oblige Six of the Present Assistants to serve a second ¹⁷⁴⁴ Year and so for the future those Six who have served but one year not to be discharged from being Assistants till they have Served two years Successively under a penalty

5. To obtain a Clause to alter the Vagrant Act relating to transporting Vagrants by lessenig the Tonage from 20 to 10 Tons.¹ That in order to carry on this Petition in Parliament without Opposition He together with the Deputy Governor Treasurer and three of the Committee waited on the Mayor Recorder and some of the Aldermen to Settle measures which on both sides were agreed as now propounded to this Court.

Mr. MAYOR acquainted the House that he called them together at this time to receive the Report of the Committee appointed to consider of what is proper to be done by this House on Occasion of the present application to Parliament from the Corporacion for the poor in this City for Power to raise a further Sum for the Maintenance of the Poor and for discharging the Debt of the said Corporation January 16.²

THEN Mr. Mayor produced the said Report which is as follows vizt,

. The . . Committee is of Opinion

1st THAT According to the present Constitution of the said Corporation for the Poor there is too much room left for Oppression, and partiality in the Exercise of the powers vested in that Corporation ; and for an Undue application of the great Sums Yearly raised on the Inhabitants of the City, for the Maintenance of the Poor.

2^{dly} THAT if the Magistrates of the City were by Express provision in the Law invested with the same powers touching the poor and the legal provision for them, which Justices of the peace are possessed of, in places where no such Corporations for the poor Subsist, And if persons liable to the Rates for the Maintenance of the poor in this

¹ The Act of 17 Geo. II obliged shipmasters to accept for transport to Ireland one vagrant for every 20 tons burthen of the ship. The Bristol Poor Act of 18 Geo. II increased this obligation to one vagrant for every 7 tons burthen, because "the Ships and Vessels bound from the Port of Bristol to Ireland are mostly of small Tonage, by reason whereof great Numbers of Vagrants . . . are . . . often necessarily obliged to lie and continue, for a long Time in the said City of Bristol, to the great Burthen and Charge of the said Corporation" of the Poor.

² From *Common Council Proceedings*.

1744.

City were by the like Express provision intitled to the same Redress touching the Accounts of all persons to whose hands the Monies raised in the City for the Maintenance of the poor shall come and touching the Application of such Monies, as all Persons paying to the poor's Rates in places where such Corporations for the poor do not Subsist, are by Law Intitled to, the Inconveniencies above mentioned might be in great Measure prevented.

3^{dly}

THAT the present, is the most favourable Opportunity that has offered or is soon likely to Offer for an Application from this House to Parliament for the Salutary Ends above mencioned Which application if it should be Attended with Success, (which in some degree or other is not reasonable to be doubted of) will in the Opinion of the Committee greatly Conduce to the Honour of this House, and to the real and lasting Interest of the City in General: In that thereby the Poor will be freed from all apprehensions of oppression, and those who contribute to the Maintenance of them will have the Satisfaction of knowing that their money is no longer liable to any sort of Misapplication without Redress from the Magistrates of the City.

4^{thly}

THAT therefore some Members of this House be desired without delay to repair to London, And there to take such Measures for obtaining the Ends above mencioned as they shall from time to time be directed from this House . . . to pursue; Or as they shall be advised to by the Friends of this City in Parliament

Will Barnes
John Clements
Abraham Elton

John Day Mayor
Lyonel Lyde
John Blackwell
John Foy
B[uckler] Weekes } Sheriffs

1745.

August 8.

Ordered that the Affair of having the Children in this House instructed in Reading be also referred to the Committee who are desired to appoint a proper Person for that Purpose.

February
13.

Ordered that the Management of Purchasing and laying in Junk for the employing of the Poor in this Hospital be referred to the present Committee.

It having been found by Experience, that by the Annual Change of Assistants and Church Wardens, who at their first Entrance into their office can't be Sufficiently acquainted with the poor and their Necessitys and are often imposed upon by them. Great expences have accrued. 1748.
December 8.

RESOLVED that it will be the Interest and benefit of this Corporation to have an Additional Officer with Such Sallary, and under Such Regulations as the Governor, Deputy Governor Treasurer and Assitants Shall from time to time direct, Whose Duty Shall be to inspect the poor of the City and recommend Such as are proper objects unknown to the Church Wardens or Committee and constantly to Attend the Committees

ORDERED that the Sum of Ten Guineas be given to the Mistress of this House in Consideration of her extraordinary Trouble and Care in promoting the Spining of Cotton lately begun and carried on in this House, and for her other Services 1750.
February 14.

THAT the visiting Guardians be desired at the Time of their Visitation to take upon them the Trouble of superintending the Persons employed in spinning of Cotton in this House AND that all other Matters in Relation thereto be recomended to the Care of the Comittee 1751.
August 8.

RESOLVED that the Gentlemen of the Comittee be desired to make proper Enquirys into the Wast that is allowed by the Person who supplys the Cotton and into all other Matters in Relation to that Manufacture 1752.
February 13.

The Court Wall belonging to this Hospital and fronting the River Avon being very ruinous and decayed¹ and it appearing by an Estimate made by judicious Workmen that the Expençe of taking down the Upper Part thereof and erecting Iron Pallisadoes in its Room will amount to Fifty Pounds or thereabouts and that the same will be a Conveniency to the said Hospital and a Strengthening to the Foundation Part of the said Wall RESOLVED that we approve of such Alteration and that the same be complied with in the most Frugal Manner at a proper Season of the Year under the Direction of the Governor Deputy Governor and Committee October 12.

¹ Cf. below, under dates 10th and 17th October, 1771.

1753.
October 11.

A MOTION having been made and agreed on That Prayers and the Common Service may be of great Use to assist the Minds of our Family, who are too much prone to a loose and profligate Behaviour, and that Care be likewise taken in the proper Educating and instructing the Children

RESOLVED That 'tis the Opinion of the Court, That a Regulation be attempted at as easy an Expence as possible, under the Conduct of the Governor Deputy Governor and Committee, who are requested to put the same into Execution.

1756.
April 8.¹

It having been reported to this Court by the Governor That Elizabeth Hedges of the City of Bristol Widow is willing and desirous to pay into this Corporation the Sum of One Hundred Pounds for the Benefit of this Hospital upon Consideration that she the said Elizabeth Hedges do and shall weekly and every Week during her Life receive the Sum of two Shillings And that her Daughter Elizabeth Smart Wife of Thomas Smart of the same City Glassman do and shall from and immediately after the Decease of her said Mother receive Weekly and every Week during her natural Life the Sum of Two Shillings and Six Pence IT IS THE RESOLUTION of this Court that the same be accepted upon the Conditions above-mentioned AND ORDERED that the Treasurer do receive the said Sum of One Hundred Pounds And that on Receipt thereof the Weekly Payments aforesaid be immediately made pursuant to the above Resolution And that the Common Seal of this Corporation be affixed to a Copy of this Order and given to the said Elizabeth Hedges as a Security for the Payment of the said Weekly Sums

June 10.

WHEREAS at a General Court held the Eighth of April last One Hundred Pounds was received of Elizabeth Hedges on Condition of her receiving two Shillings Weekly for her Life and her Daughter Elizabeth Smarts receiving Two Shillings and Six Pence per Week for Life from the Death of her Mother

It was the Opinion of the Court held this Tenth of June One Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty Six that the same be not look'd on as a Precedent in Future. The Corporation having no Power to receive any Money on any such Account And that the taking any Sums in such Manner may be attended with great Evil

¹ An entry to this effect, identical in names, sums and other details, though not in wording, appears also under dates 14th April, 1763 (action confirmed 9th June, 1763) and 12th December, 1765 (action confirmed 13th February, 1766).

The Governor having signified That the Cause of the present Meeting was to acquaint them with the State of our Finances, and that the Expences of the last Year appeared to have been Six Hundred and Ninety Three Pounds Five Shillings and Four Pence, more than the Income, Notwithstanding the greatest Care and Frugality had been exercised, and this owing to the Calamities of War, and the great Increase of the Poor and the High Price of Provisions, THE COURT ORDERED That John Brickdale Esquire Governor Mr. Joseph Godwyn Deputy Governor and Mr. John Vaughan Treasurer¹ together with [15 other Guardians named] or any Five of them (whereof the Governor or Deputy Governor to be one) be a Committee, who are to meet for the first Time on Monday next the Twenty Third Instant ; and adjourn themselves from Time to Time as they shall judge convenient, to make a stricter Enquiry into the Cause of the Encrease of the Expence, in Order That should any Neglect appear, to have it remedied, if none, to report their Opinion of the properest Method to obtain Relief for the Poor, And that they do (as soon as they can conveniently prepare such Report) summon this Court to attend to receive the same

To the Honourable the Commons of Great Britain in April 27.
Parliament assembled

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the Govenor Deputy Govenor,
Assistants and Guardians of the Poor of the City of Bristol,
under their Common Seal

SHEWETH

THAT your Petitioners are by an Act of the 7th and 8th of William 3^d and by several subsequent Acts constituted and Continued a Corporation for the care and maintenance of the Poor in the said City and apprehend they are a fair Representative Body of the Inhabitants of Bristol
THAT your Petitioners are apprehensive the Bill now depending in this Honourable House, for the more effectual compelling Overseers of the Poor to obey orders made by Justices of the peace for the speedy relief of Impotent and necessitous Poor and to explain the Law with regard to the Power of Justices of the Peace to order relief on sudden and emergent occasions, Will (as it now stands) give each of the Justices of the Peace in this City a distinct and particular power to order relief for poor Persons

¹ For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

1758.

and to Summon the Govenor Deputy Govenor, Committee and Churchwardens, at his pleasure to shew Cause why such relief should not be given, Which your Petitioners humbly alledge, is not only unnecessary But also will occasion great Confusion in the relief and ordering of the Poor, Will tend to enhance the Poors Rates in the said City and may be attended with many other Inconveniencies

YOUR PETITIONERS therefore most humbly pray this Honourable House to . . make provision that the said Act may not extend to this Corporation or to grant such other relief as to the great wisdom of this Honourable House shall seem meet

1759.
May 21.

ORDERED That the Account entitled Sundry Disbursements paid by the Corporation of St. Peters Hospital for employing and maintaining the settled Poor of the said City releiving the casual Poor and passing and transporting Vagrants from the 25th March 1758 to 25th of March 1759 be entered in the Order Book and another Copy annexed to the Certificate intended to be presented to the Justices at their Sessions

		£	
To Richard Keene Master for his			
Disbursements	III6 „ 17 „ 3½	
Deduct for what he received. Vizt.			
		£ s d	
By Balance of the last	}	29 „ 2 „ 2½	
Years Account			
By George Alker ¹ for	}	153 „ 15 „ —	
Spinning Cotton			
By Sundry fines	—	21 „ 16 „ 6	
By Mr. Sperrin of Bath	}	12 „ 0 „ 0	
for two years Interest			
of £150 — — —			
By the Maintenance of	}	44 „ 16 „ 3	
Sundry Persons			
By Sundry Repayments		74 „ 18 „ 6	
By Cash of John Doble	}	12 „ 6	
for a Quarters Rent			
due the 25 th March			
1759 — — — —		337 „ 0 . II½	
		£779 „ 16 „ 4	

¹ See below, under date 12th June, 1760.

1759.

WAGES VIZT.		£	
To Richard Keene Master for a } Year's Salary - - - }		30 „ —	
To Thomas Aylward Inspector } for Ditto - - - }		30 „ —	
To Sarah Biddle Matron for } Ditto - - - }		20 „ —	80 „ — „ —
		<hr/>	
To the several Church Wardens } for the first half Year - - }		1703 „ 18 „ 6	
To Ditto for the Second } Ditto - - - }		1751 „ 0 „ 3	3454 „ 18 „ 9
		<hr/>	
To Richard Leadbetter for Passes &c	2 „ 12 „ 6		
To Ditto. - - - - „ for Ditto.	6 „ 1 „ 6		8 „ 14 „ —
		<hr/>	
To John Burnfield for transporting } Irish Vagrants ¹ - - - }	- - -		8 „ 9 „ 1
To Smith and Barrett ² for their } care of the poor for the first half } Year - - - }	50 „ — „ —		
To Ditto . . . for the Second half } Year - - - }	50 „ — „ —		100 „ — „ —
		<hr/>	
To James Pidding for Flower -	163 „ 13 „ —		
To Ditto - - for Ditto -	83 „ 2 „ —		
To Ditto - - for Ditto -	120 „ 16 „ —		
To Ditto - - for Ditto -	68 „ 16 „ —		436 „ 7 „ —
		<hr/>	
To Joseph Godwin ³ for Shoes -	29 „ 15 „ 6		
To Ditto - - for Ditto -	26 „ 17 „ —		56 „ 12 „ 6
		<hr/>	
To Benjamin Smith for Cole -	38 „ 8 „ —		
To Ditto - - for Ditto -	44 „ 4 „ —		82 „ 12 „ —
		<hr/>	
To Richard Webb Carpenter for } Work and Coffins - - - }	25 „ 8 „ —		
To Ditto - - for Ditto -	19 „ 11 „ 6		44 „ 19 „ 6
		<hr/>	
To Onesiphorus Norman ³ for Malt	87 „ 4 „ —		
To Ditto - - - - for Ditto	57 „ 1 „ —		144 „ 5 „ —
		<hr/>	

¹ See below, under date 10th April, 1766.² Apothecaries to St. Peter's Hospital.³ Guardian or ex-Guardian.

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1759.

To William Jane for Faggotts - - - -	6 „ 8 „ 6
To Christopher Lilly ¹ - - - for Hopps -	3 „ 9 „ —
To Catchmay Barrow - - - Cooper - -	2 „ 11 „ —
To James Mathews - - - Brazier - -	3 „ 8 „ 6
To Laurence Greatrake - - Plumber - -	2 „ 14 „ 6
To William Williams ¹ for Stockings - - -	5 „ 10 „ —
To Oliver Jelf ¹ - - - for Malt - -	12 „ — „ —
To Walter Perkins ¹ - - - for Haberdashery -	14 „ 3 „ —
To Ann Smith - - - for Grutts - - -	29 „ 17 „ —
To Simon Weston ¹ for Salt and Exchange of— Soap and Candes - - - - - }	7 „ 10 „ 6
To John Peach - - - for Linnen - -	30 „ 18 „ —
To Samuel Hill for a Years Rent of the Lodge House	8 „ 13 „ 6
To John Brickdale Esquire ¹ and Son for Woollen Goods - - - - - }	16 „ 12 „ 9
To Peath Shears - - - for Tylers Work -	17 „ 5 „ —
To Richard Hill - - - Grocer - - -	14 „ 19 „ —
To Thomas Lucas for a Years Chief Rent of several Messuages - - - - - }	6 „ — „ —
To James Steevens for Years Rent of Nicholas Almshouse ² - - - - - }	5 „ — „ —
To Tudway and Smith - - - for Hosiery -	8 „ 11 „ —
To Richard Sheldon for a Years Rent of Stephens Almshouse ² - - - - - }	8 „ — „ —
To Robinson Tudway ¹ for a Years Rent of St. Thomas Ditto ² - - - - - }	5 „ — „ —
To Henry Hilman ¹ - - - for Leather -	8 „ 2 „ —
To Smiths and Freeman - - - for Linnen	9 „ 15 „ —
To Dean Bayley for the Support of Smarts family at Hilsly - - - - - }	8 „ 7 „ 6
To the Expences on the Estate at Shirehampton [details given] - - - - - }	25 „ 10 „ 10

5457 „ 0 „ 9

CREDIT

By a Years Rent of the Estate at Shirehampton - - - }	95 „ — „ —	
By Ditto of several Warehouses in Bristol - - - - }	31 „ 5 „ —	126 „ 5 „ —
Carried Forwards	5330 : 15 : 9	

¹ Guardian or ex-Guardian.² For the question of responsibility for the parish almshouses see Introduction, p. 4.

DEBTS OWING. Vizt.

1759.

1758		£	s	d
19 Jany.	To John Brickdale } Esquire on Bond -	300	—	—
	To Interest on Ditto to } 25 th March - - -	17	13	5
		<hr/>		
7 July.	To Henry Hilman on Bond	500	—	—
	To Interest to the 25 th } March - - - -	14	6	—
		<hr/>		
	To John Brickdale } Esquire unpaid of the } Expences of obtaining } an Act of Parliament }	-	-	-
	To John Burnfield for } Wages to 25 th March }	-	-	-
	1759 - - - - }			15
	To the Chamber of } Bristol for a Years }	-	-	-
	Rent due ditto - - }			3
	To William Merrick } Solicitor to the }	-	-	-
	Corporation - - }			104
		<hr/>		
		6412		

It having been reported to this Court that the Committee had . . . considered of a proper person to read prayers and to educate and instruct the Children in this House in reading and writing and recommended Thomas Pugh, (now belonging to the House) as a proper person for that purpose, October 11.
RESOLVED that the said Thomas Pugh be directed to take that Charge upon him and that, (if he shall behave himself well in that office) it be recommended to some future Court to make him some Consideration for the same

Mr. John Croke of Marlborough proposing to give full employment to the Poor in the Workhouse in Spinning of Cotton at higher wages than is paid at present by Mr. George Alker— June 12.
RESOLVED that the Govenor, Deputy Govenor and Assistants have power to agree to the proposal of the said Croke, if they

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1760. think proper, (taking security for the performance of the Contract) for a term of Years not exceeding seven—

1761.
April 9. ORDERED that the Master of this House do send to the Churchwardens of every Vestry in Bristol and to each of the Collectors of the Kings tax and Poor Rate, Requesting that, when they give receipts for taxes, they receive for Houses they apprehend to be under ten pounds per Annum rent, they will give the Receipts in the Landlords names and not in the Tenant's incase the Tenant receives back the money from the Landlord again, and that they will request the Assessors to put down the Landlord names in their Books, In order to avoid as much as possible the Increase of Settlements.

1764.
June 14. RESOLVED that Messrs. Stephen Nash the late Govenor, Frederick Yeamans the late Deputy Govenor¹ and the present Governor, Deputy Governor and Treasurer be desired to wait on the Corporation² to settle the Account of the monies expended in the support of the disbanded Soldiers sent over to Ireland, in order that the Justices may be certified what monies will be wanted for the next Year

1766.
April 10. The Governor and Deputy Governor Reported that pursuant to the Resolution of the General Court of the 12th December last they had treated with John Burnfield for a Yearly Sallary for taking upon him the care of sending away the Irish Vagrants but the said Burnfield refusing to undertake the same unless he was paid a Sallary of ten pounds per Year They had Agreed with one Samuel Harris who had undertaken to do the same at the Yearly Sum of five pounds and five shillings to Commence from the first day of January last—

1767.
February 12. Resolved that the Committee do apply to and treat with Mr. William Miller in Broadstreet for his house near the Turnpike Gate on St. Michael's Hill, and take the same for any time not exceeding seven years in order to be appropriated for the use of the sick in the room of the House in Milk street, And that the Committee do give directions for furnishing the same with proper

¹ For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

² *i.e.* the City Council.

Sheeting and other necessaries for the sick, advising with the 1767.
Apothecary thereon and fitting up the same.

ORDERED that the Lunatic's Wards be floored with Planks (the same being found to be very injurious on account of the present Stone floor) under the direction of the Committee

RESOLVED Also that the several Surgeons be requested and June 11.
Desired to observe the following Rules. Vizt.

- 1st It is Expected that every Surgeon in this House sees his patients three times in a Week at least
- 2^d Every Patient is to be dressed as often as may be necessary by the Surgeon himself or his Apprentice and not left as has been too Commonly the Case to the Management of their Fellow Patients
- 3^d Every person in the Foul Ward is to be the Immediate Patient of the Surgeon in whose Week He or she was Admitted
- 4th None but the Surgeons are to order Medicines for the foul patients and the Apothecary is hereby Commanded to Comply with those prescriptions only which are Wrote by the Surgeons themselves in a Book Appointed for that Purpose Except in Cases of Emergency
- 5th It is recommended to each of the Gentlemen that if he cannot himself Attend he would request one of the others to Visit for him so as that the Tenor of these Rules may not be infringed

Lastly. It is likewise Ordered and Expected that the Apprentices of the same Surgeons do not on any pretence whatsoever on their Coming to dress the patients Introduce any person whomsoever with them into the House.

Great Complaints having been made of the Apothecary's¹ not August 13.
attending the Duty of this House RESOLVED that the Master give him Notice that this Corporation will have no further Occasion of his Service after Michaelmas next at which time he is to be discharged and a new Apothecary elected And that the Deputy Governor and Committee be desired to employ a proper Apothecary in the mean time to take care of the poor if the same shall be neglected by the present Apothecary.

Complaint having been made of the Butcher's sending in bad Meat ORDERED that the Master do wait on him and inform

¹ Mr. Lowder. His defence was heard on 20th August, and he was acquitted. "If dismissed, it is not for neglect of duty." His successor was nevertheless appointed on 8th October.

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1767. him that if any Complaint be made for the future he will be prosecuted on a breach of his Contract

Complaint being made that the disorder of the Itch prevails very much amongst the Family RESOLVED that the Governor Deputy Governor and Committee be desired to give proper Orders for getting the same cured as soon as may be

October 8. The proposal of Mr. William Barrett¹ to take Six or Eight of the Children at a time to the Lodge House and there inoculate them Gratis and to find them Medicines being read RESOLVED that we approve of and accept his proposal, for such Children as shall be willing to be inoculated with the approbation of their parents

December 10. The Committee appointed at the last General Court to treat with Messrs. Champion and Company for the Employment of the Children of this House in the Pin Manufactory Reported in Writing

1st THAT Mr. Ward Agent to Messrs. Champion and Company attended them and proposed—That they would employ all the Boys in this House from about half past Six Years old in the heading of Pins And all the Girls from about half past Six Years old in the Sticking of Pins And after their learning One Month they would pay for the Labour of each, for the first Year 6^d per week, for the Second Year 9^d per Week, for the Third Year 12^d per Week and for the Fourth and as many Years after as they should be employed 18^d per week and no more. That they would supply them with Tools &c That the Hospital was to furnish a proper place to carry on the Work and to allow £3 per Annum for the House Rent of a Master and Mistress to superintend and instruct the Children

2nd This Committee finding the present Employment of spinning of Cotton to be more advantageous than engaging in a Pinnery applied themselves to the discovery of what Improvements might be made therein. And being fully satisfied that with judicious management and a judicious Contract the manufactory might be made more advantageous than any other they could inform themselves of. They entered into Treaty with some

¹ Appointed surgeon to St. Peter's Hospital, February, 1755; one of the staff who resigned because of the post-mortem rule, 14th June, 1770; writer of a history of Bristol, and a patron of Chatterton.

Gentlemen of Manchester, applied to Mr. Crook the former 1767. Contractor¹ and to other Persons in order to obtain the most beneficial Terms possible That the highest price they have been yet offered has been from a Person of London, who proposes to Contract for a Term, to supply the House with the best Smyrna Cotton, and to pay 18^d per Dozen for the same Quantity of Spinning which Mr. Crook gave only 16^d for And also to put the Children upon a still coarser kind of spinning for which he will pay 6^d and 7^d per Pound and which tis probable may prove more beneficial than his other proposal

3rd This Committee have examined the Premises belonging to the Hospital and have seen adjoining to this House some Warehouses in the Occupation of Mr. Canning and others which at a small Expence might be converted into Work Shops for the Accomodation of the whole Cotton Manufactory And which would be attended with the further great advantage

4th Of enabling this House to convert the Rooms in which the Manufactory is now carried on to the very much wanted purpose of Bed Rooms for the Children, who now sleep Six and Eight in a Bed in a very confined apartment

5th If this General Court approve of converting the before mentioned Warehouses into Workshops. This Committee recommend to them to call in from amongst the many Children who are at Nurse as many of the most proper of them as with those in the House will make One Hundred and Twenty and to employ them in Spinning to which number it will require about Seventy, other Hands for picking and Carding who may very readily be found among the Younger Children and the old People now in the House by which Method a fair Experiment may be made how far it will be eligible to encrease this Manufactory by taking into it other Children of the great many who will remain at Nurse and who are old enough to be employed therein

6th AND this Committee further Take the Liberty to recommend to this Court immediately to appoint a Committee to consider of an Employment and of a method to set to Work every Person admitted into this House even those who are only taken in for a Temporary Relief, so that there may not be a Pauper in it but what shall be obliged to Labour to the

¹ See above, under date 12th June, 1760.

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1767.

utmost of their Power as the most necessary and only effectual means to prevent the great abuses that are practiced upon this House And to Curtail the vast growing expence of it

Bristol December 9th 1767

Signed

James Hill
Richard Vaughan
William Edwards
John David
William Owen¹

1768.
April 14.

RESOLVED that the other two Physicians Doctor Woodward and Doctor Rigge be applied to, to know whether they choose to attend their duty on the Poor of this House or not, or resign and report their Answer at the next Court.² And that the Physicians and Surgeons of this House be desired to visit (once a Week at least) the Frenzy Objects and report the State of their health to the Committee And also all such objects as shall be from time to time brought in by warrants of Lunacy And that they be desired to give directions to the Master or Mistress what kinds of provisions shall be given to such objects

October 13.

Margaret Slowman one of the Nurses of the House having been detected in selling the Provisions out of the House Ordered that She be whipped in the Yard in the presence of all the Family who are able to attend, immediately and that she receive one Dozen Lashes, and that she be confined to the Penn till she behaves better

Ann Burnell for cursing the Deputy Govenor and Committee and Elizabeth Williams for getting drunk and being abusive are ordered to be confined in the House, having been punished by being confined for some time in the Penn

Elizabeth Haskins accused also of Selling the Provisions out of the House being brought up and appearing at present Insane, RESOLVED that as soon as she is recovered She be brought before the Committee and punished as they shall direct

1770.
August 9.

Whereas the restrictive rule of the Eighth of February touching the opening of Bodies dying in this house has been productive of many disputes both within and without doors and has been construed a Rule of Menace by the Physicians and Surgeons who refused farther attendance on the poor Patients of this Hospital since the last General Court because it was not then rescinded

¹ For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

² Dr. "Woodard" said he could not attend in future, "by reason of his avocations elsewhere" (21st July, 1768). Dr. Rigge apparently satisfied the Corporation, as a report of his is mentioned 12th October, 1769.

Resolved that it is the opinion of this Court that the word 1770.
(Presume)¹ which was never intended to give Offence, be left out
and that an order be now made Conformable to the usage of
Saint Thomas and Guys hospitals in London as appears by two
Letters from a principal Surgeon of each which order is as follows

RESOLVED that for the future no surgeon of this Hospital do
open the body of any patient dying in this house without first
acquainting the Master with his Design. That if any friends of
the deceased are at hand the master may send to them for their
Consent as at the hospitals in London the Surgeons say they
never open a body without it And that if no Relations of the
deceased be near at hand The Governor or Deputy Governor
shall be Considered as the friends of the deceased

WHEREAS the order made at the General Court the Ninth of December
August last relative to the opening of dead bodies, has 13.
not been found perfectly agreeable to some of the Guardians and
to the wishes of the Surgeon who at present attend this hospital
and who so generously undertook the Care thereof when it was
deserted by the former Physicians and Surgeons.² Not from a
Conviction that the above orders are Contradictory to the Rules
of other hospitals but to restore Harmony and peace to this
house. RESOLVED that in order to pay a proper Compliment to
the present Surgeons for their Spirit and humanity on that
Occasion the above mentioned Orders . . . be no longer
Considered the Rules of this hospital but that agreeable to their
Request the order be now as follows—

RESOLVED that the present Surgeons and Such as may in future
be Elected to serve this hospital shall previous to the Acceptance
of the Trust PROMISE that they will not wantonly open or cause
to be opened the body of any person dying in this house, And
when it shall be found necessary for the Information of the
faculty and the benefit of the living to open any Dead Body, it
shall be done in the presence of a Physician (if there be one
belonging to this house) and a Surgeon, Or if no physician Then
in the presence of two Surgeons who shall be answerable to this
Court that it shall be done as decently and secretly as possible.

¹ " ORDERED that the Surgeons of this House do not for the future
presume to open any body that dies in this House without the consent of
the Govenor" 8th February, 1770.

² 14th June, 1770. As the Court resolved to maintain its order of
8th February on this subject, the physicians and surgeons "replied that
they had nothing more to do than to take their leave."

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1770. After which the body shall be delivered to the master for burial and should any Physician or Surgeon of this house act in Contradiction to this Rule, they shall on proof before this Court be reprimanded or if thought necessary, Expelled this Hospital

1771.
October 10. It being represented at this Court that the Court wall of this house against the River has these two or three days been sinking and Continues to sink and that there is great Danger of it's falling into the River and thereby endanger the navigation Resolved that it is the opinion of this court that the Governor and Deputy Governor or one of them do immediately acquaint the Corporation of the City (the Conservators of the navigation in the river with the above that proper measures may be taken to guard against the Inconveniencies which may arise from the wall's falling into the River And that the Committee be desired to take proper measures to secure the said wall

October 17. The Deputy Governor reported that soon after the breaking up of last Court he had made the mayor of this City acquainted with the resolution thereof relating to the Court wall . . . That Mr. Mayor had Signified to him that the Corporation of the City had nothing to do therewith and could therefore give no advice or assistance therein. The said Court wall with part of the Court and the late erected cold Bath¹ and some other old Buildings having since fallen in and it being necessary that some Steps should be immediately taken to prevent further damage and also to repair what has been done, This Court . . . are of the Opinion that the direction and management of repairing such damages will be better carried on by the Committee with some Gentlemen added to them than by this Court

1772.
August 13. The Petition of Ann Fulford to relinquish a Legacy of fifty pounds given by her Brother John Wilkes Apothecary² Deceased to this Corporation being read And it appearing by a Memorial and affidavits transmitted from the Province of Georgia where the said Ann Fulford is resident that the said Ann Fulford is Sister of the said John Wilkes and that she her Husband and family are in very low and indigent Circumstances Resolved that the Executors of the said John Wilkes be not called upon by this

¹ First suggested 10th August, 1769 ; Dr. Farr recommended its erection, especially for "the Phrenzy persons of this house." A minute of 12th April, 1770, assured him that the bath would soon be made.

² As far as the records show, he was not Apothecary to the Corporation of the Poor.

Corporation for such Legacy And this Corporation Do hereby consent and desire that the said Executors Do pay the said Legacy to the said Ann Fulford or her said Husband And they do hereby release and acquit the said Executors therefrom on such payment being made 1772.

It being represented to this Court that many Irish Vagrants have lately been sent into this City by permissive Passes and that some such Vagrants who are sent by passes might be sent a nearer way ORDERED that the Committee do take the Opinion of Mr. Hobhouse whether the sending vagrants in such manner be legal or not and report such Opinion at the next Court October 8.

The Governor reported to this Court that a Bill was depending in the House of Commons entitled " A Bill for the better support of poor persons in certain circumstances by enabling parishes to grant them annuities for Life upon purchase and under certain restrictions " That he had perused the printed Bill which takes no manner of notice of this or any other bodies incorporated for the care of the Poor and observed that if such Bill was to pass as it now stands this Corporation would be debarred of the power of carrying the said Act into execution and the same would be vested in the Vestries and Inhabitants of the several Parishes which would be productive of great confusion RESOLVED that it is the Opinion of this Court that the Solicitor do write to our Members in Parliament Lord Clare and Mr. Brickdale representing the Care of this Corporation in respect to the said Bill and requesting them to attend to the passing thereof and to obtain a Clause therein to extend the power of the said Act to this Corporation instead of the vestries and Inhabitants of the several Parishes and that the Acts of Parliament relating to this Corporation be sent to Lord Clare and Mr. Brickdale to enable them the better to speak to this matter RESOLVED also that if it shall be found necessary to petition Parliament the Committee be and are hereby empowered to draw up such Petition 1773.
February
11.

The Committee reported that the Solicitor had Thursday last laid before them a letter which he had received from Lord Clare relating to a Bill now in the House of Commons To prevent unnecessary and vexatious removals of the Poor and had at the same time recommended them to take Mr. Hobhouse's opinion . . . which being now read RESOLVED that a Copy of Mr. Hobhouses Opinion be transcribed in this Book 1774.
February
26.

1774.

In perusing the Bill and also the Observations thereon made, I think the Difficulties in either System are such as are by no means to easily resolved.

In the first place the mode of a private Examination to conclude or make Evidence thereby a parish by no means a party thereto present thereat seems not only contrary to our Ideas of Justice but to all the Course of Juridical proceedings in this Country and from the Experience I have had and known of the law and dirty Shifts of parochial Cunning in the Execution of the poor laws, I am well assured it will be pregnant in practice even with more Injustice than it carries in Theory for Justices in the Country are not unfrequently worthy of little more Confidence than parochial officers and from sinister Views enter deeply into all that Craft, and their Clerks to whom others generally deliver up the preparation and Adjustment of these Examinations seldom fail to be Solicitors to the Neighbouring Vestries, and I know how easily these Examinations are manufactur'd and how different they commonly turn out from a more thorough and accurate Investigation of the fact.

The Idea of a Notice is fraught with still as great Difficulties and must introduce the Litigation in the first Instance which it is meant to avoid.

The Compelling a Certificate to be granted is still exposed to the same Difficulties, for how shall a parish be Compelled to grant a Certificate in the first Instance to a person whose Settlement perhaps they may have a just Right to Question and whether Just or not must even be the Object of Juridical Controversy and the pauper must Controvert this point . . . prehaps before an Interested Justice

If Certificates were rendered of less Efficacy by only making the person irremovable till actually Chargeable and did not preclude the Certificated person from gaining a Settlement by any of the Ordinary means of acquiring Settlements prehaps parishes would have less reluctance in the granting them and the good Effects of this law might be better answered.

The Introducing a new mode of Settlement by Residence merely and which would be a virtual repeal of the Statute of Jacobus 2 concerning Notice¹ would be introductive . . . of Litigation, And I think would be particularly inconvenient to the City of

¹ 1 Jac. II, cap. 17; the 40 days' residence to qualify for settlement must date from the delivery of notice in writing to a Churchwarden or Overseer, stating the settler's address and the number in family.

Bristol where many persons under such predicament would undoubtedly gain Settlements. Yet I cannott say but that such a Settlement seems highly consentaneous to Justice—But Foreigners do not gain any Settlement in England by Landing or residing here at present even for any time 1774.

Upon the whole I do not perceive any thing in the proposed Bill which interests the City of Bristol more than the rest of the Kingdom . . . , the wisdom Indeed and the Justice of the proposed Regulations appear to me very problematical and demand the attention of the Best Heads in the Legislature, lest by remedying the Evils and the Hardships of the present System they introduce new ones of no less Magnitude or frequency.

H[enry] Hobhouse

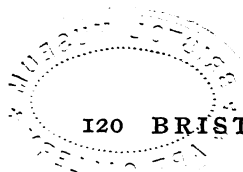
Clifton February 26: 1774

It appearing to this Court that some late Deputy Governors, just going out of Office have given Orders to themselves or others for Goods to a very great amount that were not immediately wanted for the Use of the Hospital, To prevent therefore such abuse of Office and stop so growing an Evil, It is ORDERED by this Court, that no future Deputy Governor shall persue such method or order any quantity of Goods of any kind whatsoever but what shall be necessary to be expended in the Course of three Months from the time of such Orders given, Unless it shall be made appear to the Majority of the Committee that it will be an advantage to the Corporation. And that this Resolution be added to the Rules and Orders of the Corporation and read at every General Court¹ 1776.
February 8.

The Committee to whom Mr. Robert Lovell & Company's proposal for employing the Children² was referred having made their report to this Court And the Question being now put whether such proposal be accepted or not the same was determined in the negative 1779.
February 11.

¹ On 10th December, 1789, a resolution was passed that this Rule be not read in future because it had become unnecessary: "in confidence that no future similar instance can possibly arise amongst the present or future disinterested Members of this House." The following Standing Order was apparently substituted: "Ordered that no member of this Corporation, shall supply this House with any goods or provisions whatsoever while he remains a member thereof." Cf. accounts given above, under date 21st May, 1759.

² "In the Pin Manufactory." *Court Books of the Corporation of the Poor*, 10th December, 1778, and 20th January, 1779.



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1779. RESOLVED that the further Consideration of the employing the Children in the Pin Manufactory be referred to the Committee and such other Members of this Corporation who shall choose to attend

June 10. RESOLVED that the Committee be hereby empowered to enter into a Contract with Mr. Robert Lovell for employing the Children in the said Manufactory upon the Terms and Conditions contained in the several Papers delivered in by the Governor and read at this Court.

RESOLVED that it be referred to the Committee to . . . take into their Consideration the putting out the Children apprentice and Advertise the same in the Papers as they shall think necessary¹

1783.
April 24. The Corporation of this City having desired that this House would Send away all the discharged Irish Soldiers and Sailors who are lying about in this City This Court was Summoned in order to take the same into Consideration and the same having been duly considered It is the opinion of this House that they have no power to Send away any of such Persons who do not come under the description of Vagrants—

1784.
February
12. It appearing to this Court that the diseased poor under the Care of the Surgeons of this House require a more constant attendance Ordered that the Governor be desired to Call an Extraordinary General Court to be holden on Thursday next the 19th Instant to enquire into this complaint And that the Surgeons have notice thereof and be desired to attend

February
19. There being great numbers of discharged Soldiers and Sailors constantly resorting to this City in their way to Ireland and many of them becoming chargeable here and And the Corporation of this City having intimated that they would join this House in petitioning Government to have a Vessel stationed here for the Purpose of conveying such persons to Ireland Resolved that a Petition to the foregoing purport be prepared by the Committee and that the Governor do wait on the Mayor and Corporation therewith

¹ No such advertisement appears in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* at this time.

Sir John Durbin Knight the Governor¹ and the rest of the Committee appointed at the last General Court to enquire into the nature of the Expenditure of this House and of any misapplication of the monies or misconduct of any Officer or other Person belonging to or employed by this Corporation made their report and the same having been gone through it is Resolved thereupon

1785.
April 7.

That the printed Rules of this House be strictly complied with under pain of the Persons neglecting to do so being discharged from their Employments

That it be recommended to the Committee of this House to ascertain and regulate the quantities of the different Articles of provision necessary for each person every day and report the same to the next or some future General Court

That Bacon is not a necessary Article of provision . . .

That the Expence incurred in the Article of Linnen having much increased within these few Years past It is therefore recommended by this Court to the Committee of this House to attend particularly to this Article

That no Member of this Corporation shall supply this House with any Goods or provisions whatsoever whilst he remains a Member of the said Corporation²

That the Sallary of Seven Shillings and Sixpence per Week given to Richard Leadbetter a late Clerk³ be in future discontinued

That the Matron shall always attend divine Service with the Children

That . . . the entrance to the House be by a Hatch to be placed near the Window of the said Masters Office—And that every Person going into the House shall first receive some check or token from the Master and deliver the same to the Door keeper before he or she shall be admitted which check or token shall be returned to the Master upon such Person coming out of the House again

That a Book be kept in the Masters Office wherein John Brown and John Huntingford Officers of this House shall enter an Account how and where they employ themselves every day

That no Pauper not having a Settlement within this City be

¹ For particulars of this Guardian, see Appendix.

² See p. 119, footnote.

³ In office in 1750; salary apparently 6s. a week, raised to 10s. a week in June, 1751, 12s. a week in March, 1760, £30 a year in June, 1763; gratuities amounting to about 33 guineas during his period of service.

1785. admitted into this House for Cure or otherwise without Security being previously given for payment of the expence arising to this Corporation thereby

1786. August 10. RESOLVED that an Advertisement be incerted in all the Public Papers¹ under the signature of the Governor setting forth the Punishment that hath been inflicted on Richard Wood and his Wife by the Judgement of the last Adjournment of the Quarter Sessions for misbehaviour to their Apprentice Sarah Thomas and warning all others who have taken Apprentices out of this house to take all proper Care of them as the House is Determined to prosecute all Persons who ill use or do not take such care of them

December 14. The Clerk reported that a Complaint was made by the Inhabitants of several Sea ports and places on the Channell that the Masters of Ships employed to remove Irish Vagrants landed them at such Places and thereby brought great Charges and other Inconveniencies on the neighbouring Inhabitants—Resolved that such Complaint be considered by the Committee and that they do take any measures they may deem expedient for removing the same if it appears to be well founded

1788. August 14. RESOLVED that the Master do prepare an Account of the Number of Irish Vagrants conveyed from this City to Ireland in the Years 1776 1777 and 1778 and also in the Years 1786 1787 and 1788 ascertaining in separate Columns from what place they were passed to this City and the expences attending the same and that he do deliver such Account at the next General Court.
RESOLVED that an Advertisement be incerted in the Publick Papers² and hand Bills in large Letter affixed in proper places

¹ This was done by the printing of this Resolution, a footnote stating the sentence inflicted (£8 fine and six months' imprisonment). *Bonner and Middleton's Bristol Journal*, 12th August, 1786, also publishes a letter from "Humanus," who was present at the trial and was impressed by the evidence afforded of the "humanity and benevolence" of the Deputy Governor, Isaac Cooke, "in his laudable and unremitted exertions to bring these human monsters to justice."

² From *Bristol Gazette*, 21st August, 1788. "Whereas the streets and passages of this City have of late been much infested with BEGGARS, BALLAD SINGERS and other Vagrants; the Corporation of the Poor have ordered a reward to be paid by the Master of this House to any person who shall apprehend within this city, and bring to this house, any Beggar, Ballad Singer, Minstrel, or other Vagrant; that such may be corrected . . . as the law directs. By order of the Corporation of the Poor."

to the like like purport as that published by order of the Committee dated 19 February 1782 for apprehending Beggar Ballad Singers Minstrells and other Vagrants 1788.

The RESOLUTION of the Committee of the 17th January relative to the Poor of the House being employed in spinning for Mr. Waldron of Trowbridge being read and the Committee having entered into a Resolution that the experiment be tried This Court doth approve of and confirm Such Resolution 1789.
February 12.

RESOLVED that an additional able bodied Man be employed to assist in the apprehending all Beggars Vagrants Ballad Singers &c &c found in the Streets of this City December 30.

THAT the said Officer shall be distinguished by a Cap made for that purpose on which shall be placed the following Words in legible Characters St. Peters Hospital Officer for apprehending Vagrants Beggars &c &c

THAT it be his daily business to perambulate the City for the more effectual performance of this duty

THAT a rout through the several districts of the City be made out and given to him in writing every morning by the Master and a Copy thereof entred in a Book kept for that purpose in order that an Account thereof may be sent to the Printers of the Thursday and Saturdays Papers to be incerted as a Paragraph by them for the Information of the Citizens, who will be enabled thereby to judge of any neglect in the Officer and have it in their power to report the Same to the Hospital

THAT one of the Boys in the Hospital shall always attend the Officer that he may have a Messenger ready to dispatch to the Hospital for assistance if any be wanting to bring to the Hospital the Sturdy Beggar whom he shall have apprehended

THAT for the more conveniently bringing to the Hospital Such sturdy Beggar without injury to him and without unnecessary Labor or Contention on the Part of the Officer and his Assistant it will be requisite to provide a Couple of long Poles of sufficient Substance and pliability connected by Girt Webs at proper distances for conveying thereon such resisting Person who in Case of necessity may be secured by Ligatures on his Legs and hand wrists provided for that purpose

THAT an application be made in form by this Corporation to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City Submitting to them the Regulations which this Court has thought necessary to establish

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1789. for clearing the City of the great Number of Beggars Vagrants Ballad Singers &c which daily infest the Streets thereof requesting the countenance and support of the Magistrates presuming that they will in their Wisdom deem it meet to command the Serjeants at Mace Club Men and other Officers appointed by the Body Corporate and to injoin by Public Notice all Constables Watchmen and Peace Officers of the City to be ready on all Occasions to assist to the utmost of their Power the Officer appointed by this Corporation

1790.
December
23. RESOLVED that Messrs. Samuel Watts James Ewer John Pountney and Robert Fry¹ be a Committee jointly with the present Committee and regulate the business of the manufactory² and to give Such encouragement to those employed therein from time to time as they shall think proper

1791.
April 14. RESOLVED that the Master be paid ten Guineas as a gratuity for his attention to the management of the manufactory since its establishment

1792.
April 12. RESOLVED that Mr. Robert Hall be desired to inspect the manufactory in the House and that he has liberty of admission at all times for that purpose
Resolved that Messrs. Samuel Watts James Ewer and Robert Fry be desired to continue to assist the Committee in conducting and regulating the business of the manufactory

1793.
February
14. An Act having passed in the last Sessions of Parliament intituled " An Act to explain and amend an Act relating to Rogues Vagabonds and other idle and disorderly persons and to Houses of Correction " under which the Justices were required to cause Vagrants to be publicly whipt or to be committed to the house of Correction for a space of time not less than 7 days before they are removed by Pass to their place of Settlement and to certify the same in such pass—

RESOLVED that the provisions of the said Act are productive of very considerable expence in the removal of Vagrants and of much trouble to the Magistrates and Parochial Officers in Cities and populous Towns and that such Provisions have not been found in any degree to lessen the Number of Vagrants

¹ For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

² Spinning, for Mr. Waldron of Trowbridge. See above, under date 12th February, 1789.

Eight of the Pauper Girls in the House were ordered in upon a charge that they had behaved disorderly and rudely to the visiting Guardians the Master and others and were reprimanded 1793.
June 13.
RESOLVED that in Case any of the Girls or Boys in the House misbehave in future that the Deputy Governor or in his absence the Master has full power given by this House to correct the Offenders by putting them into the Pens or inflicting a Moderate degree of punishment at his discretion

It is the Request of the Court that the Governor will write to our Members in Parliament representing the great Expence to which the Corporation are put in repassing the Number of Women and Children lately brought over from Ireland with the Regiments raised there And requesting the Members to apply to the Secretary at War to give directions for preventing this Inconvenience in future. And that the Governor be also desired to beg the Interference of the Magistrates with our Members in support of this Application 1795.
February
12.

It is also the request of the Court that the Governor Should in Such Letter to our Members represent the ill State of health of the Men brought over in Such Regiments and the Danger there is of infectious disorders from this Cause¹—And beg our Members to State the Same to the Secretary at War

Extract of a Letter from Lord Sheffield to Mr. Tobin April 9.

I have been twice at the War Office relative to the business of the Corporation of the Poor—I fear no thing can be done in addition to the kind of temporary Military Hospital now established at Bristol except to obtain an Order that such a Number of Women shall not be permitted to sail in the Transports from Ireland—Lord Worcester and I have both urged the necessity of some such Measure

Resolved that the Children for whom application is made from Preston be not placed out there without the Consent of a Court on a Summons mentioning that the Business will then be brought forward. August 20.

A Letter from Mr. Christopher Smalley of Hollywell of the 30th of September last for Twenty or Thirty Children as October 8.

¹ Fortescue, *History of the British Army*, says a good deal about the arrangements of the Board of Transport, especially in transferring recruits from Ireland to Chatham. The vessels were bad and crowded, the men infected with fevers and without discipline. There were no medical stores. (Vol. iv., pt. ii., pp. 882-4.)

1795. Apprentices in the Manufactory of the Cotton Twist Company there was read. And resolved that the Consideration of such application be suspended till the next or some future Court and that Mr. Smalley be made acquainted with this Resolution

A report of the Committee appointed the Eleventh of June last to consider of the expediency of employing the Poor in this House in the Woollen Manufactory or in some other manner, was read and was left with the Master for the Court. And a motion was made that Measures be taken for employing the Poor in the Manufactory of Flannel as suggested by the report and the same passed in the Affirmative

December
10.

The Governor reported that — Hobbs at Pill had been employed till lately in the removal of Irish Paupers on the part of the Hospital but that Government had lately employed tenders and Officers here for the Removal of disabled Irish Soldiers and their Wives and Children That considerable Inconvenience and Expence were sustained by the Hospital in the Maintenance &c of such soldiers and their families ; the Persons employed by government detaining them until they had a number for which they thought it worth while to send off a Tender. Hobbs therefore proposed to remove such Soldiers and their families for Government at 6/6, each Person of ten years of Age, and half that sum for those under that Age But vessels sent for that purpose only to clear out under a Balast Permit only. The Governor further reported that a Correspondance had been entered into by him with General Rooke and the Secretary at War And that such Proposals had been accepted and arrangements made for carrying the same into Effect And such Correspondence was read. The several steps taken herein were approved by the Court

1796.
June 9.

An Application on the part of Mr. Benjamin Churchill and Company Silk and Cotton Manufacturerr at Sheepshead near Loughborough for ten boys and girls as apprentices to the above Business was made to this Court but the Consideration thereof was suspended

August 11.

ORDERED That the Children and others employed in the Manufactory do take their Meals together and the Committee are authorized to see this Resolution carried into Effect

That the Committee be empowered to reward the Children employed with such proportion of the profits arising from their

work as they may think proper subject to the Approbation of 1796.
the next General Court

That the Committee be empowered to make what Laws they may deem necessary for the Management of the Persons employed in the Manufactory so that they do not interfere with the established Orders of the House—

That a sum not exceeding Three hundred Pounds at the discretion of the Committee be granted to the Committee for the use of the Manufactory established in this House.

Ordered that the further Sum of £300 be granted to the Committee for the use of the Woollen Manufactory established in this House. December 8.

Resolved that the pay of the persons, who refuse to have their Children placed out to such Trades as may be proposed and meet the Approbation of the Committee, be suspended — The Committee to use their discretion as to the Objects that may come under the above description.

Copy of Petition

To the Honorable the Commons of Great Britain in parliament assembled 1797.
February 23.

The Humble Petition of the Governor Deputy Governor Assistants and Guardians of the Poor of the City of Bristol Sheweth

.

That your petitioners observe that a Bill intituled “ A Bill for the better support and maintenance of the Poor is brought into your Honorable House for the purpose of amending and enforcing the Laws for the relief of the poor and for reducing the excessive amounts of the Poor Rates.¹

That your Petitioners have lately established a Woollen Manufactory wherein they employ such of the Poor of the City of Bristol as are capable of working and they doubt not but the Progressive Improvement of their Manufactory will in the course of time (if your petitioners be not affected by the Bill now before your Honorable House) cause the poor rates so burthensome

¹ Pitt's Bill, published 22nd December, 1796, was abandoned owing to general opposition. It proposed establishing Schools of Industry under annual inspection.

1797. and oppressive to the industrious part of the Community to be considerably reduced

. Your Petitioners therefore humbly pray that a Clause may be introduced into the said Bill to exempt the Corporation of the Poor of this City from being affected by it

August 10. RESOLVED that in future no out-pay be allowed for any Child who shall have attained Six Years of Age but that where the Parents are not able to provide for such Children the Corporation will receive them into the House of Industry established for that Purpose

VOTED and ORDERED unanimously that owing to the increasing Number of the Poor and the high Price of Provisions for the last two Years a Deficiency of £4136 „ 15 „ 1 had arisen It was therefore necessary to apply to the Mayor and Aldermen for an Additional Sum of £3250 which with the several Sums of £4500 and £8500 already granted make together the Sum of £16250—

Note . . . As the Assessment of the several parishes for the half years Rate due 25 March 1796 (which ought not to have been in Account with the several Churchwardens before the 29th September following, the time allowed for completing that Rate) was introduced and credited in the Accounts of last Year ending the 31st March 1796 the Corporation are under the disagreeable necessity of making some Change in the Arrangement of their Accounts to enable their Clerk to deduce an exact Balance on the 31 March 1797, that a regular System of Book keeping in future may be adopted. To accomplish which it is absolutely necessary to remove the practise of crediting Rates before they are received

In completing the foregoing Account, the Corporation were much concerned to find that the increased Number of Poor and the high price of provisions principally within the last two Years had occasioned a Deficiency of £4136 „ 15 „ 1. But as it appears after the fullest Investigation that these extraordinary Disbursements do not arise from Abuse, but are owing to the unavoidable Necessities of the Times they feel confident that the Public will see the propriety of the Application for further Assistance

A Letter from the Governor to Lieutenant General Rooke requesting him to lay before the Government an Account of Money expended by the Corporation in removing Soldiers their Wives and Children to Ireland from the 6th November 1795 to the 24th day of June 1797 was read—The Governor informed the Court that no Notice had been taken by the Warr Office of an Application made by General Rooke in Consequence of his Letter, but that he hoped he should soon hear from them on the Subject

1797.
October 12.

A Letter from Messrs. Davison and Hawkesley to the Governor was read ; orders were given that such Letter should be printed in hand Bills and given the different Churchwardens to distribute among the poor—And it was left to the Committee to fix with Messrs. Davison and Newman the Terms on which they would take some more Children

A Letter received from Davison and Hawkesley agreeing to take more Children on the same Terms they did the last was read by the Clerk Mr. Batchelor was requested to write Messrs. Davison and Hawkesley and inform them of the number of Children intended to be sent, their Ages and any other particulars he may think necessary.

1798.
February 8.

ORDERED That a Building for the purpose of employing the old Men and Women in this house be erected under the direction of the Governor Deputy Governor and Assistants of his Court agreeably to the plan now produced—provided the Expence does not exceed 400*£*

June 14.

A Letter from Messrs. Ross and Ogelvies to the Governor was read by the Clerk desiring him to draw for 708 . 15 . 11 due from Government for the Removal of Soldiers to Ireland

August 9.

The Thanks of the Court, were unanimously voted to the Governor for the extraordinary trouble he had been at, in attending at the Pay Office in London, at Mr. Roses and Mr. Milfords of the Treasury in order to obtain payment of the above Sum.¹

St. Peters House of Industry Bristol February 10th 1800

1800.
February
10.

It is this day agreed upon between the Corporation of the Poor of this City and Robert Hawkins of the Hot-Wells near Bristol in manner and Form following, That is to say the said

¹ See above, under dates 10th December, 1795, and 12th October, 1797.

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1800.

Robert Hawkins agrees to superintend, take care of, and work at, the woollen Manufactory at present carried on in the said House, and to do and perform whatever He may be required to do therein, or in any other Manufacture which may in future be established there, and to act as a Superintendant to keep the Poor of this House fully employed ; For which Service the said Corporation engages to pay to the said Robert Hawkins Sixteen Shillings weekly, and also the further sum of one Shilling for every Pack of Mop-yarn, of a good and saleable Quality, which shall be manufactured in the House, sold, and the Money received for the same, And also the sum of one Shilling in the Pound for any net sum which shall accrue from the Labour of the Family either in picking of Hair, Oakum or any other Labour in the Manufactory in which the Poor of the House may in future be employed and of which He shall have the Superintendence, after deducting every Expence attending the manufacturing thereof, All of which Operations He the said Robert Hawkins engages to see faithfully taken care of and executed, And also to keep and render weekly a just and true Account of whatever may be, at any time, put under his Charge.

February
13.

Manufactory from its Commencement July 16th 1796 to the
31st January 1800.

Dr.

To Expences previous to its Commencement }		31 „ 13 „ 10
„ Cost of Machinery	293 „ 6 „ 1	
„ Repairing ditto	86 „ 6 „ 5	
	<hr/>	379 „ 12 „ 6
„ 14830 lbs. of Wool at different prices }	653 . 14 . 3	
„ Oil Size and Finishing	207 . 16 . —	
	<hr/>	861 „ 10 „ 3
„ Incidental Expences	7 . 5 . 3	
„ Wages	320 . 19 . 10	
„ Gratuities to the People belonging to the House em- ployed in the Manufactory }	58 „ 13 „ —	
	<hr/>	386 „ 18 „ 1
		<hr/>
		<u>£1659 „ 14 „ 8</u>

DOCUMENTS

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Cr. 1800.

By 365 pieces of Flannel &c. sold	905 „ 16 „ 9	
„ Eliot for a Chain and Weaving	3 „ 12 „ —	
„ E. Evans for Yarn Skained	13 „ — „ —	
„ S. Long for ditto ditto	5 „ 4 „ 2	
„ By Protheroe & Company for } Carding Camels Hair }	1 „ 15 „ —	
„ By T. Holmes for Picking Cotton	2 „ 10 „ —	
„ By St. Peters House of } Industry for Stockings and Yarn }	9 „ 7 „ 5	
	<hr/>	941 „ 5 „ 4
„ By Prichard due from Him for } 240 lbs. Mop Yarn at 10 ^d } per lb. which took 256 lbs. } Wool to make it }		10 „ 10 „ —
„ Corporation, Sundries supplied } the House to March 31 st 1799 }	30 „ 10 „ 8	
„ ditto since March 31 st 1799	1 „ 5 „ 10	
	<hr/>	31 „ 16 „ 6
„ ditto 290 pairs Stockings for } Family in Manufactory }	14 „ 10 „ —	
„ ditto 27 lbs. of Stocking-Yarn } at 1/6 }	2 „ — „ 6	
„ ditto 50 ditto ditto — — 2/-	5 „ — „ —	
„ ditto 2½ ditto Worsted — 1/6	„ 3 „ 4	
„ ditto 2 pieces Flannel 96 } Yards — — — — 1/- }	4 „ 16 „ —	
„ ditto 2 ditto Grey Cloth } 80 Yards — — — — 2/2 }	8 „ 13 „ 4	
„ ditto 1½ piece Serge — — } 60 Yards — — — — 1/- }	3 „ — „ —	
„ ditto 3 pieces Flannel } 141 yards — — — — 10 ^d }	5 „ 17 „ 6	
	<hr/>	44 „ — „ 8
„ Goods not sold vizt.		
26 pieces of Flannel value } exclusive of the Cost of } Finishing about }	44 „ — „ —	
3 pieces ditto ditto ditto	4 „ 13 „ —	
6 pieces unfinished in the } Manufactory }	10 „ 8 „ —	
1½ piece finished in ditto	2 „ 10 „ —	
	<hr/>	61 „ 11 „ —

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1800.	By 5 Packs and 224 lbs. of Wool at } 44 „ 10 „ —	
	£7 „ 10 per Pack	
	„ 15 lbs. coarse Wool at 6 ^d „ 7 „ 6	
	2 lbs. red Yarn 1 /6 „ 3 „ —	
		45 „ — „ 6
	By Appraisment of Machinery fit } 190 „ 11 „ —	
	for Mop Yarn }	
	By Looms &cc. not proper for } 69 „ — „ 7	
	ditto }	
		259 „ 11 „ 7
	Profit and Loss	265 „ 19 „ 1
		<u>£1659 „ 14 „ 8</u>

December 11. This Court were of Opinion that circular Letters signed by the Governor (under the directions of this Court) be transmitted to the Clergyman of the several Parishes of this City and requesting them to grant Certificates of Birth and Marriages to Paupers who apply with the Governor or Deputy Governors Letter certifying the same to be necessary for the Establishment of the settlements, without any Charge.

1801. St. Peters House of Industry January 8th 1801.
January 8. By Order of the Governor of the Corporation of the Poor of the City of Bristol the Church Wardens of the respective Parishes within the said City were summoned to meet on this day at St. Peters House of Industry aforesaid to take into Consideration the best Method of relieving the Poor of the said City during the present high price of all kinds of Grain, and to carry into Effect an Act intituled “ An Act for making better Provision for the Maintenance of the Poor and for diminishing the Consumption of Bread Corn, by directing the manner of applying Parish Relief, until the Sixth day of November 1801, and from thence until the end of Six Weeks after the Meeting of the then next Session of Parliament ”

The above mentioned Act being read and the several Clauses considered, after the most mature Deliberation, It was unanimously Resolved That the present Mode of Relief adopted by the House for providing for the Poor of this City, taking in all Circumstances, should be continued, it being in the Opinion of the Gentlemen present more beneficial, as the Poor have an Opportunity of disposing of their Money in a regular well supplied Market, more to their Advantage than by any other Mode.

It is also the Opinion of the Gentlemen present, that if this House should alter its mode of Relief to the Poor, by giving part of their Supply in Provisions, it would have a Tendency to check that laudable Spirit of entering into Subscriptions for the Relief of the Poor, which has been, and still is prevalent in this City ;— and which has been the means of affording them very seasonable and comfortable Relief 1801.

At this Meeting it was suggested to the Court that the Poor in this house might be employed in the Pin Manufactory without the house being at any Expence, except for house Room and in preparing a Room for the purpose. The Court are of Opinion that it be left to the Governor Deputy Governor and Committee to employ the Poor in this house in such manufactory in any manner they may think necessary February 12.

It having been stated to the Corporation by the Governor that the Rooms built in the house with a view for a manufactory were ready for use, and that no Agreement was yet made with Mr. Cross the Pin manufacturer referred to in the former Order of the Court Resolved that unless the Governor Deputy Governor and Committee can agree with Mr. Cross within 7 days Then the Governor is requested to insert an Advertizement in the Bristol Papers offering the use of the Rooms and the Labor of the Poor upon such Terms as shall be thought fit and proper to any person willing to employ them and who will not put the Corporation to any Expence except in preparing the Rooms and overlooking the Children¹ June 11.

The Governor reported that in consequence of an anonymous Letter stating that the Children placed at Nurse by the Hospital with Hannah Linterne of Syston in Glostershire were reduced to a very wretched situation from ill treatment and want of food The Children had been sent for and were found in an extremely weak and emaciated State, every way confirming the Statement in the above Letter, That a Committee had been accordingly held on the Subject and in consequence thereof the Woman had been brought before the Justices for Gloucestershire who had committed her to take her Trial at the next Quarter Sessions August 13.

The Court approved of the Steps which had been taken by the Governor and Committee

¹ No such advertisement appears in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* at this time.

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1802.
August 12.

ORDERED That the proper Officer or Officers of this Corporation do correspond with the Secretary at War or other proper person or persons and inform him for the Guidance of Government that the Justices of the City and County in Sessions assembled have under authority of an Act passed in the 17th year of the reign of his late Majesty ordered that 6/6 per head shall in future be paid for the passage of Vagrants and other persons sent from Pill to Ireland and that they do come to an understanding with Government that the Sum of 6/6 per head shall be repaid to the Corporation for the passage of all Soldiers Sailors and their wives and Families removed for Government by this House.

1805.
June 13.

ORDERED that it be referred to the Committee to consider the propriety of letting out the Room prepared for employing the poor and that they have full power and authority to order advertizements to be inserted in the Papers if they shall think fit

ORDERED also That Elizabeth Best widow of the late Agent of this Corporation be continued during the pleasure of this House in the Employment lately carried on by her Husband of removing the Irish poor and that she be paid in the same manner as her late husband

August 8.

ORDERED That all the Children out at Nurse under the orders and Directions of this Corporation be when of sufficient age put out apprentice and that all Nurses having Care of such Children be obliged to bring in such Children when ever thereunto required by this House

December
12.

It is the Opinion of this House that Mary Davis be indicted for a Misdemeanor in endeavouring to destroy her infant Child and that the Solicitors do proceed with such prosecution

VOTED and ORDERED That this Corporation will pay every person who shall apprehend a Vagrant begging in the Streets of Bristol who shall be maimed crippled or deformed or any other Vagrants in the said City until further Orders the Sum of Two shillings and sixpence each for such Vagrants And that Notice be prepared by the Solicitors and stuck up in the public Places of the City of this Resolution

The Report of the Committee appointed for the Management
of the General Concerns of the . . Corporation

1807.
February
12.

Your Committee report that they met at St. Peters Hospital on Tuesday the 6th day of January instant . . And that at such Meeting the Governor laid before your said Committee an anonymous Letter directed to him . . in which it is stated that reports had been spread abroad in the most public manner That the Deputy Governor Mr. Batchelor¹ has had Beer brewed and his Clothes washed at the Hospital at the Public Expence . . And that Mr. Thomas Cross pinmaker of Bridge street sometime since paid him for Workshops in the Hospital £14 which he did not account for but put in his own pocket

And your Committee further report That the Solicitor to the House stated . . . That some days since The Deputy Governor had waited on him and informed him that he heard a person of the Name of Smith a Tinsplate worker on the Back had been slandering him as Deputy Governor of this Corporation That upon the Deputy Governor so applying to him he wrote Mr. Smith and stated to him that if he had any Complaints to make of the Conduct of any one in this House it was his duty to attend at the General Court and make good his charge That on the day after writing the last mentioned Letter Mr. Thomas Smith called on the Solicitor and stated to him that he had in a Moment of Inebriety been guilty of spreading a report the truth of which he had not previously inquired into and which upon such Inquiry he found not to have been true That he had since seen Mr. Batchelor the Deputy Governor and had made the most full ample Apology to him and hoped no further Notice would be taken

Your Committee further Report that they were attended by Mr. Thomas Smith Mr. Thomas Cross Mr. John Winter and all the Officers and the Matron of this House and that after a patient and attentive Examination of the persons best able to prove the Truth or Falsity of the before mentioned Charges and after full proof from Mr. Cross that he had never paid any money whatever to the Deputy Governor . . . but that he had always settled with Mr. Duncan the Master of the House and after it had been shewn incontrovertibly that all the money paid by Mr. Cross to the Master had been carried to the Credit of this House Your Committee were of opinion that the Charges against Mr. Batchelor of receiving Fourteen pounds of Mr. Thomas Cross for the use of

¹ For particulars of this Guardian, see Appendix.

1807.

this House and putting the same into his own pocket and of having Beer brewed and his Clothes washed at the Hospital at the public Expence are unfounded . . .

Your Committee further Report that for the protection of the Characters of those Gentlemen who come forward to dedicate their time and Attention to the public they consider it absolutely necessary that an Example should be made to deter others from framing or spreading . . . Reports to the injury of the Characters of any Member of this Corporation That they have therefore directed the Solicitors . . . to prosecute Mr. Thomas Smith unless he shall (and which they have no doubt he will do) sign a proper acknowledgement to be inserted in the Bristol Newspapers¹ that he had circulated the Report before alluded to without inquiring into the Truth thereof and that upon such Inquiry he had found that the Charges so made . . . were unfounded

Your Committee before they close this their Report feel it their duty to state that they consider the present Deputy Governor as well intitled to the Thanks of the whole Body of his Fellow Citizens for his Zeal and Ability so repeatedly exerted for the benefit of this Corporation and the City at large . . .

(Signed) Tho[mas] Daniel Governor
Richard Lambert
John Birtill
Thomas Morris
Francis Grigg
Jos[eph] Slocombe
William Terrett
Isaac Stephens
John Hutchins Junior
John Emery²

August 13. The Standing Committee to whom it was referred to report respecting the Windows between the Hospital and Mr. Dowells premises reported that if the Windows at the end of the Oakhum room looking into the George Yard were stopped up it would be necessary to keep open the Uppermost Window looking into Mr. Dowells Court Yard—

1808.

October 13.

It is stated to this Court that it was proposed to move an alteration in two of the Bye Laws or Orders of this Court, the one . . . for changing the age at which the Relief of paupers Children must be stopped from 6 years to 7 years

¹ A copy of the resolution of the Court appeared in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 28th February, 1807, giving the result of the enquiry and stating that "the Imputations against the Deputy Governor, were scandalous and unfounded." No apology was published, and the culprit was not named.

² For particulars of these Guardians, see Appendix.

Expences incurred by me in removing Jane Morgan, Martha Morgan and one Infant Child to the Parish of Manerbier in the County of Pembroke Also Elizabeth Reynish and her Bastard Child to the Parish of Prendergast in same County and Margaret Davies and her 2 Children to the Parish of Nivern in same County.

1810.
July.¹

1810

July 16

Paid Lloyd for Passage for Self and Paupers	£2—16—6
Sea Stock such as Brandy Tea and Sugar	0—12—0
Paid Hobblers ² for Landing self and 8 Paupers	0— 6—0
Gave Lloyds Men and Boy for taking care of } Children at Sea (Women being Sick)	0— 3—0
Paid a Man at Tenby for going about with me } and the Paupers to procure Lodgings	0— 5—0
17. Breakfast for Self and Carter 2/- Dinner 5/- } Beer 6 ^d Tea 2/- Supper 4/- Beds 2/- }	0—15—6
Victuals and Beds for the People	0—16—0
18. Self and Carter	0—15—6
Victuals and Beds for People	0—12—6
19. Self and Carter	0—15—6
Paupers for this Day and Beds	0—12—0
20 th Self and Carter	0—16—0
Paupers (Beds and Food)	0— 7—6
21 Self and Carter	0—16—6
Paupers	0— 5—6
22 ^d Self	0— 9—6
23 Ditto	0— 9—0
Paid Carter according to agreement	5— 5—0
Feed for Horse	0— 4—0
Turnpikes	0— 1—0
Paid Women for taking care of the Children } on road }	0— 6—0
Paid Coach Hire	3— 8—6
4 Coachmen and 3 Guards	0— 4—0
Paid at New Passage	0— 1—0
Refreshment on Road coming home	0— 3—9
Total	£21— 6—9

Received the above

September 1st 1810

Jeremiah Howell

¹ From Settlement Officer's Account Book.

² "Hobbler, *a.* An unlicensed pilot, on some parts of the coast of England ;
. . . *c.* A casual labourer employed at quays, docks, etc." (Murray).

1811.
May 16.

St. Peters Hospital 15th May 1811

REPORT of the Committee appointed . . . to define the duties of the Apothecary &c

. Your Committee . . . have conferred with and consulted the Medical Officers of the House from whom they find that it is the Duty of the Apothecary to take care of the Medical Patients in the House and to dispence the prescriptions of the Physicians and Surgeons as well as his own but the Medical Officers observed, that to carry this fully into effect it was expedient there should also be a Dispencer of Medicines resident in the House, who should be ready by night and by day to attend to this part of the Apothecary's duty as his Assistant

It was also the Opinion of those Gentlemen that the present Dispencer (Barrow) is competent to the business of dispensing Medicines under the direction of the Apothecary . . .

BUT . . . your Committee were informed that previous to the appointment of Mr. Griffiths, the usage had been to employ an Apothecary who both supplied the drugs and dispenced the Medicines from his own house

THAT the appointment of an Apothecary's Shop in this House only commenced with the appointment of the last Apothecary and as this was an alteration then made for the . . extension of the advantages of the Patients in the House and as another Vacancy in the same department again occurs after a lapse of twenty Years It appears to your Committee highly reasonable . . . to improve the Opportunity by extending the advantages still farther to the Poor, who are, indeed by the Laws of the Land (as well as by the dictates of Humanity and feeling) entitled to Medical Assistance

Your Committee therefore propose That . . . A RESIDENT APOTHECARY should be appointed annually or during the pleasure of the House . . . and that he be permitted to take Pupils or Apprentices, but that no such Pupils or Apprentices should board in the House and (as an Apothecary so situated would obviously have a portion of his time unoccupied) That part of his time should be engaged in Attending some of the most urgent cases of sickness which may occur among the Poor who receive pay out of the House and who reside within the City but that he should attend no Patients whatever on his own Account That the Poor would be very materially benefited by such an

arrangement cannot be doubted, but it appears also to your Committee that the funds of the Institution would be relieved by the more speedy recovery of many who are put on the casual Bills during illness 1811.

There are always many in this City . . . who feel the misery of Poverty increased by sickness some of whom are sustaining the most acute diseases without the least access to Medical aid even after making full allowance for the very great advantages which the Poor in this City derive from the Infirmary and Dispensary for there are still some left so extremely destitute as to be without the benefit of those and other benevolent Institutions and these may with propriety be termed the very poorest of the poor and are naturally entitled to relief from this Corporation

Ordered that the Committee appointed . . do proceed to consider the propriety of purchasing a place for the reception of Vagrants passed to Ireland and the Solicitors are directed to consider how far the Corporation are legally capable of purchasing premises for such purposes and if the Committee shall approve of establishing such a place that they proceed to purchase such premises as they may think best adapted to the purposes proposed so as that the price do not exceed £340 October 10.

Resolved that the Committee of expenditure be directed to obtain possession of the premises at Pill lately purchased and put them in a proper Condition as soon as possible. December 12.

New Visiting Rules

1st

1812.
August 13.

That each ward be numbered on the door thereof

2^d

That the House be put under the care of five Guardians for each week . . . who shall be Summoned by rotation as they stand on the respective lists of Guardians and Assistants

3^d

Summonses shall be delivered on every Friday . . requiring them to meet at the House on the Monday following at Ten O Clock in the forenoon (Subject to a fine of 2/6 each for non attendance) when two or more of them shall visit the House and fix on another day in the same week for the same purpose and the names of those who agree to visit on those days shall be

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1812. entered in the visitors Book and in case either of them shall neglect to attend he shall be fined 3/-

4th

That the Visitors shall visit every Ward in the House except the Foul Ward or any Ward in which an infectious disorder is known to prevail which are left to the discretion of the said Visitors provided they state in their Book what Wards they have visited or omitted and for what reason

5th

That when they visit the House neither the Master Matron or Nurses be present unless the visitors require it and they shall diligently enquire into the number of Persons in each ward and also into all things relative to the condition and behaviour of the persons in the House particularly that of the Nurses also the conduct and attendance of the Physicians Chaplain Surgeons Apothecary—Surgeons and Apothecarys pupils or Apprentices and other Officers and shall also inspect the quality of the Meat Bread Malt Liquor &c used in the House—and the visitors neglecting so to enquire and enter a report of those Matters in their Book shall be fined 2/6

1813.
June 10. Ordered that the premises at Pill lately purchased be advertized¹ to be sold at Lamplighters Hall on Friday the 16th day of July next unless previously disposed of by private Contract Government having withdrawn from the Corporation the office of removing disbanded Soldiers and Sailors with their wives and families for whose sole accomodation that premises were purchased last Year.

1816.
March 23.² Thomas Wilson, Wife and 4 Children to Shepton Mallet
Also Davis Osmond, Wife and Child to the parish of Charmouth, Dorset

¹ The following advertisement appeared in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 3rd and 10th July, 1813: "TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION. By S. D. WILMOTT. Lot 1. All that Messuage or Dwelling-House, situate at Pill, in the parish of St. George, . . . now in the possession of the Corporation of the Poor of Bristol. Lot 2. All that other Messuage or Tenement adjoining lot 1, also in the occupation of the said Corporation. . . . The above Premises are held by lease from the Rev. Richard Wilkins, for the remainder of a term of 99 years, commencing the 11th of August, 1808 and are subject to a rent of 10/- per annum."

² From Settlement Officer's Account Book.

DOCUMENTS

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1816

23 rd March. Coach Hire from White Hart, Outside to Shepton for Self	0— 7—0
Coach Man	0— 0—6
Gave the above a pint of Beer	0— 0—3
Paid from Wells Coach-Hire, Outside to George Pritchard, the Coach Man to Axminster for Self	0—13—0
Paid for a Cart as per Receipt to take the above to Charmouth, the Man having lately lost his Leg	0— 6—0
Paid for lifts from Charmouth to Ilminster, 17 miles	0— 2—6
Coach from Ditto to Bristol, Outside 5 Days, Self	0—18—0 2— 5—0
Coach Man, home	0— 0—6
	£4—12—9

1816.

RESOLVED unanimously that the thanks of this Corporation be given to the Deputy Governor for his kindness in undertaking to visit the several Manufactories at Which this House has apprenticed Children for some years past for the great attention he paid to the objects of the Visit and for his report thereof entered in the minutes of the Committee of Expenditure

December
12.

GENERAL ORDERS¹

ASSISTANTS and GUARDIANS.

1817.
October 9.

Committee of Expenditure

- 4 That this Committee audit the Master and Matrons Disbursements and examine and discharge all demands due from this Corporation, provide for the Education of the Children in the House . . .
- 6 That no Child or Children be bound Apprentices out of this House unless it be with the consent and by the direction of this Committee and that each Child so bound shall have a Bible and the Book of Common Prayer given him or her

COMMITTEE for ADMINISTERING RELIEF.

- 3 That the applications for relief shall be registered
- 4 That no pay be allowed for any Child who shall have attained nine years of age (unless in some extraordinary cases, when

¹ Orders omitted : Committee of Expenditure Nos. 1-3 and 5 ; Committee of Relief, Nos. 1 and 2 ; Visiting Committee, Nos. 1, 2, 4, 5 ; Pay Guardians, Nos. 1, 3-5 ; Apothecary, Nos. 3, 7, 10, 12, 15 ; Chaplain, No. 1 ; Master, Nos. 5, 15, 17, 18, 26 ; Matron, Nos. 2, 4, 13.

1817.

the Committee may see fit . . .) and that when the parents are not able to provide for such Children the Corporation will receive them into the House

VISITING COMMITTEE

- 3 That the Visitors shall visit every Ward in the House . . . together with the Larder Cellar Brewhouse Bakehouse and the Pens

PAY GUARDIANS

- 2 That no Pay Guardian shall pay to any poor person in his parish above the sum of Two Shillings without an order in writing from the Governor . . . or Committee . . . for relief so that the total amount expended without an Order shall not in any one year exceed the Sum of Forty Shillings

APOTHECARY

- 1 That he shall be appointed for five years or during the pleasure of the Court . . .
- 2 That before he enters upon his office he shall Sign a written declaration that he has read the Rules of the Apothecary and that he will conform thereto
- 4 That he shall never be absent from the House after Eleven oClock at night or out all night without the consent of the Governor Deputy Governor or Committee of Expenditure . .
- 5 That the Children in the House being particularly under his care he shall see that they be bathed and washed in the Bath room every Saturday he shall on discovering any of them to be labouring under disease remove those that are sick from those that are in health until he is Satisfied that their removal need not be continued . . . and that on the first appearance of any contagious disease among the Children or any part of the Family he shall acquaint the Physicians and Deputy Governor thereof
- 6 That two Books shall be kept by him (one for In and one for Out Patients) for the inspection of the Physicians Surgeons and Committee of Relief in which he shall enter the names of all the poor persons under his care adding to the names of those out of the House their places of abode and to the names of both the In and Out-Patients a description of their disease the progress thereof and of their care

- 8 That he shall fix a Ticket over the Bed of each sick person 1817.
Specifying the name of the Patient the date of admission and
the name of the Physician and Surgeon who attend him
- 9 That he shall visit the Patients in the House every morning
before Ten oClock and be ready to report their state to
the Physicians and Surgeons and shall keep a diary of all
extraordinary cases and make up and deliver out the medicines
according to the directions of the Physicians and Surgeons
- 11 That he shall never be absent from the House at any time
when the Physicians or Surgeons attend and never be absent
at all without acquainting the Master where he is to be met
with
- 13 That he shall never visit any Sick Person out of the House
except by order of the Governor Deputy Governor or
Committee
- 14 That the Medicines in the House being under his care he
shall examine them when sent in from the Druggist as to their
quality and quantity and enter them in a Book to be kept
for that purpose that he shall never order any article from
the Druggist but by a written order Signed by himself and at
the Committee of Expenditure he shall present the Druggist's
Bill for the past month examined and Signed by himself
as being a just account
- 16 That he shall not suffer any person but the Guardians the
Medical officers of the House the Master or his own Assistant
or Pupil to have access to his shop he shall be careful that it
be kept with great neatness and order and that the Medicines
be used with strict frugality and care
- 17 That he shall make up all simple preparations such as
Ointments and Tinctures and as far as possible all Plaisters
- 18 That no Apprentice or Pupil shall be allowed to prescribe
for the Patients in this House

CHAPLAIN

- 2 That he shall read Prayers twice a week in the Chapel and
preach there one Sermon every week he shall read Prayers
in the Sick Wards every Sunday and also visit them frequently
and attend the House whenever the Master or Matron informs
him that a sick person desires to be visited
- 3 That he shall superintend the religious instruction of the
Children and Catechise them once a week

1817.

MASTER

- 1 That the Master shall be annually elected and engaged during the pleasure of the Corporation
- 2 That before he enters upon his office he shall sign a written declaration that he has read the Rules of the Master and that he will conform thereto
- 3 That he shall find good and sufficient security for Five Hundred Pounds
- 4 That he shall be a Single man or a widower without family or whose Child or Children are provided for in the opinion of the Court of an unexceptionable Character humane and active disposition firm conduct good manners and well versed in accounts he shall not be under Thirty five nor above Fifty years of age at the time of his first election
- 6 That he shall not be absent from the House after Eleven oClock at night nor on any occasion the whole night without the knowledge and consent of the Governor or Deputy Governor . . . That he shall never be absent from his post except on the affairs of the House until after five oClock in the evening nor at any time without leaving a written memorandum stating where he may be found
- 7 That he shall not engage nor be engaged directly or indirectly in any business or profession
- 8 That he shall require the Servants and Constables to attend their duty at the Counting House from Nine oClock in the morning until Seven oClock at night
- 9 That he shall require the Keys of the Outer doors and Gates to be brought to him every evening at Eight oClock in Winter and at Nine oClock in Summer
- 10 That he shall keep the Cash Book and balance his Cash every evening the Relief Books Maintenance and Bastardy Books and Suspended Relief Book and Superintend direct and check the keeping of all others taking care that the Journal be kept correctly and posted into the Ledger at least once aweek and that none of the Books be ever in arrear He shall take care that the rents be demanded with the strictest punctuality as they become due and that all sums of money due from the Churchwardens and other debtors to the Corporation be paid up in due course
- 11 That he shall be in attendance at every Court and at every Committee Meeting and be prepared to lay before the

Committee of Expenditure the Cash book Waste book, 1817.
Journal and Ledger the two Relief Suspended Relief Bastardy
Maintenance Matrons Butchers Tradesmens Journey Bankers
and Visitors Books completely made up the Invoices of Goods
purchased in the current month a list of the Articles wanted
and an Account of the drafts required to discharge Bills
entered in a Book and a report if required of the state of the
House conduct of the Servants and Family

- 12 That he shall take care the Counting house be kept in a very neat and orderly manner
- 13 That he shall have the care of all Persons admitted into the Hospital by Order of the Governor Deputy Governor or Committee of Relief (without whose orders no Person can be admitted therein or discharged therefrom) and he shall place all persons admitted in such Wards as shall best correspond with their habits and former circumstances in life But in cases of very great emergency he may admit Persons into the House on his own responsibility the particulars of which extraordinary cases he shall . . always lay before the Deputy Governor or Committee of Relief at their first meeting
- 14 That he shall pay the Poor at the window of the Counting house on Relief Days and send off under the direction of the Deputy Governor all paupers to their Settlements by the cheapest and most expeditious conveyances
- 16 That he shall not on his own responsibility administer relief to the amount of more than One Shilling to an individual or Sixpence each to a Family at any time or on any occasion . . . and he shall report in writing all such cases to the next Committee and order the pauper to appear before them
- 19 That he shall visit every part of the House at least three times in each week and be especially attentive to the state of the Lunatic and Passengers Wards and report to the Deputy Governor any omission of duty by the Chaplain Physicians, Surgeons, Apothecary Matron Servants or other Persons holding any Office in the Hospital also any complaints of the Poor whether of neglect or ill usage from any person or persons in the House whatsoever
- 20 That in cases of flagrant misconduct of the poor in the House in the interval of the sittings of the Committee of Relief he shall be empowered to use his Authority by punishing the Person or Persons so offending either by confinement or bread and water diet until the Committee meet

1817.

- 21 That he shall take care Spirituous Liquors be not brought into the House and that smoaking of Tobacco be not allowed in any of the Wards He shall not suffer Drunkenness Quarrelling Cursing or abusive language in the Family He shall be present if possible when Provisions or other Stores are brought into the Hospital examine their quality and weight, remark any deficiency therein and when so found return it to the Tradesman acquainting the Deputy Governor thereof. He shall take care there be an equal distribution of Food served out to the Family so that there be no occasion for complaint of injustice or partiality He shall notice to the Deputy Governor any alteration in the Diet or Cloathing of the Family wherein he can recommend a saving to be made and the Poor sufficiently supplied He shall not purchase any articles nor order any repairs sudden Leaks and Stoppages excepted
- 22 That he shall be particularly careful that all Funerals from the Hospital be conducted with due decency and Order and that they be attended by at least Eight of the Family besides the bearers
- 23 That he shall keep the Key of the Dead house and require on the part of the Surgeons a strict adherence to the Rule which prescribes that no examination of a Body shall take place but in the presence of a Physician
- 24 That he shall require the Children in the House to be bathed and washed in the Bath room every Saturday under the inspection of the Apothecary . . .
- 25 That he shall every Sunday accompany all the Poor Persons in the House who are not confined by sickness or other causes to St. Peters Church twice and shall see that their conduct there be orderly and decent but such of the Poor as do not belong to the Church of England may attend any other place of Worship in the City provided they bring him a certificate from the officiating Minister stating that they regularly attend his place of Worship That he shall be present as often as possible at the religious worship in the Chapel and shall take means for obliging all the Family (Children as well as grown persons) to attend who may be capable thereof

MATRON

- 1 That the Matron shall be annually elected and engaged during the pleasure of the Corporation

- 3 That she shall be a Spinster or a Widow without family or ^{1817.} whose child or children are provided for in the opinion of the Court of unexceptionable character good manners and humane and active disposition she shall not be under Thirty five nor above Fifty years of age at the time of her first election
- 5 That she shall visit every Ward in the House at least twice a week be particularly attentive that every part of it be kept exceedingly clean and well ventilated she shall visit the Sick Wards every day and allow the Patients such comforts as their situation may require consistently with the Rules and Regulations of the House and be especially careful that the Nurses fulfil their duty with humanity and attention
- 6 That she shall select the Servants and Nurses from the sober honest, and industrious part of the family, and be extremely careful that no fraud be practised by them or by The Poor in carrying out of the House provisions or other articles to sell or give away she shall not allow Spirituous or other liquors or provisions to be brought into the House . . .
- 7 That she shall prevent as far as possible all communication between the Male and Female Poor of the House and between the Healthy and the Sick but more particularly she shall take care that there be no communication between the inhabitants of the Foul Insane and Passengers Wards
- 8 That she shall be careful to employ Women whose characters for sobriety and humanity are well known as Nurses for the Children put out by the House in the adjacent country villages she shall make herself acquainted with their conduct towards the Children she shall examine the Children at those periods when they are required to attend she shall employ middle aged women as Nurses for the Female Childrens Wards and whenever she may observe the least appearance of ill health in any of them she shall report it to the Apothecary she shall take care that they be daily washed and combed and be kept as neat as possible and that at the approach of Winter they be warmly clad
- 9 That she shall see all the Poor Persons in the House be provided every week with clean personal linen and that the beds and bedding be kept as clean as circumstances will admit of she shall require that all the inmates keep themselves clean and that the stairs and passages of the House be daily washed

1817. 10 That she shall be careful there be no waste in cutting out or making up the Clothes and Linen by the poor persons in the House
- 11 That she shall attend twice every Sunday with the family at Saint Peters Church and on all occasions when Divine Service is performed in the Chapel
- 12 That she shall not be absent from the House after Ten oClock at night nor on any occasion all night without . . . consent . . .

1818.
March 19.

To the Honorable the Commons of the United Kingdom
. . . in Parliament assembled

THE HUMBLE PETITION of the Governor Deputy Governor Assistants and Guardians of the Poor within the City of Bristol

SHEWETH That by virtue of several acts of Parliament the Government of the Poor in the City of Bristol and the management of the Revenues appropriated for their relief is vested in your petitioners

That . . . the sum annually required for the relief and maintenance of the Said Poor is apportioned by the Mayor and Aldermen of the Said City . . . between the several parishes in proportion to the estimated annual value of the rateable property . . .

That several of such parishes particularly those in which Manufactories are established have within their limits greatly more than an equal proportion of Houses of inferior value the occupiers of which are not only unable to contribute towards the payment of the poors Rate but if compelled by a distress to sell their goods must themselves become applicants for relief—Whilst the other parishes are chiefly Inhabited by the more opulent classes

That by reason of the inability of occupiers of this description to pay their rates the same are necessarily borne by the other Inhabitants of the parish, who however feeling a natural repugnance to Sustain a burden which belongs to others, . . . Jealousies arise and are fermented between the more opulent inhabitants, Great distress is occasioned to the poorer and the Churchwardens . . . are subjected to much odium and ill will

That the inequality thus occasioned is not confined to the assessments on the individual parishes but the apportionment of the General Rate . . however justly made in its original upon

the presumption that all the occupiers shall contribute . . . 1818.
becomes unequal when it is found that a portion only are
enabled to do so

That a very large proportion of the Tenements of this
description constituting entire Courts and Lanes or districts
erected in Situations calculated by their vicinity to manufactories
to induce a resort of workmen as residents are the property of
persons of comparative opulence who derive from the rental . . .
a return considerably more than adequate to the expenditure
bestowed on the building

That in many instances houses of large dimensions or two or
more adjoining houses are let together to persons who take the
same for the purpose of accommodating Lodgers of the poorer
classes the united Rents of which will exceed £30 or £40 per
annum whilst the Inhabitants are equally incompetent to the
payment of the Rates as the occupiers of single Houses

That . . . the difficulties experienced by the Churchwardens
in the Collection of their rates necessarily render them unable to
make good their payments to your Petitioners That by
these means your petitioners are already involved to the extent
of many thousands in debt to their Treasurer for sums necessarily
required for the Support and Maintenance of the Poor Whilst the
Churchwardens are unable to collect or pay in the arrears due . . .

Your Petitioners therefore most humbly submit to the
consideration of your Honorable House the expediency of making
some legislative provision by which the owners of Houses under
the yearly value of £20 and of Houses of Large dimensions or
united Houses let for the purpose of accomodating poor Lodgers
may be rendered liable either originally or in default of the
occupiers to the payment of a just contribution towards the relief
and Maintenance of the poor

The Report of the Committee on the several Cases submitted April 23.
to their investigation having been read

RESOLVED that Mr. Samuel Simmons Salmon¹ be severely
reprehended for his neglect of Duty in not seeing Mary Ann
Humphries² after the Nurse spoke to him on the Stairs (on or
about the 14th March) until the 1st day of April following

And he is hereby severely reprehended

¹ Appointed Surgeon, June, 1794.

² Died in the House.

1818.

RESOLVED that Mr. Arthur Kift the Apothecary¹ of this House be severely reprehended for Want of attention in the case of Thomas Lewis² to that part of the Rule No. 9. under the head of the Apothecary Which relates to the reporting the State of the patients to the physician and Surgeon also for removing the said Thomas Lewis into the Surgery Ward whilst in a dying State only one day previous to his death And for his treatment of Elizabeth Rowe² for Itch alone from the 24^t December to the 1st February during which period she was in the passengers and Itch Wards . . .

And he is hereby severely reprehended

RESOLVED that it appears to this Court that the Conduct of Mary Nugent the Nurse of the Foul Ward in giving Testimony to the Committee in total variance from that which she gave to the Committee of Expenditure is in the highest degree reprehensible And she is hereby severely reprehended And the Deputy Governor is requested to inflict such punishment upon her as he may think expedient or otherwise to discharge her

June 11.

Report of the Adjourned Special Committee of Enquiry.

. . . They were aware of the delicacy attending any interference with the rules considered as obligatory on the Medical department of this House . . . but the circumstance of a want of proper understanding among themselves, influencing the possible attendance which the interests of this house may require has induced your committee . . . to submit to the General Court the following Resolutions

1st That a book be provided in which each Physician and Surgeon shall write his Name every day on which he attends this House which book . . . shall be exhibited at every Committee of Expenditure

2 That the Apothecary shall enter the Name of every person who may require Surgical attendance in the Surgeons Orderly book which book shall be placed in the Surgery every morning before Ten oClock, and in cases of emergency the Apothecary shall also send a Note to the Surgeons place of residence, requesting his early attendance . . . While your Committee were sitting a printed letter was received from Mr. Davies one of the Surgeons urging the adoption of some plan to facilitate the Vaccination of the Children and others of the laboring classes—Your Committee

¹ Appointed June, 1817.

² Died in the House.

. . . therefore beg to recommend the measure to the full consideration of the Court 1818.

The Deputy Governor informed the House that it would be very desirable that a school Room for the Boys should be fitted up in some other part of the House as the present Room (the Hall) is much too large and in consequence thereof the Master complains he has no command over the Boys for in any attempt to chastise them they run from him round the Tables The Room is also very dark and having a Stone floor is cold and damp to their feet that he had inspected every part of the House and found only one place which could be conveniently spared which would answer the purpose This Room lay above the Brew house, he had consulted . . . the House Carpenter who is of Opinion that it will be free from any dampness arising from the Steam of the Boilers and that it would . . . contain proper School benches and forms to accomodate fifty Boys¹ . . .

December
10.

Ordered that the said Room be fitted up and Appropriated to this purpose.

To JAMES JOHNSON Esquire Deputy Governor of St. Peters Hospital² 1819.
March 11.

WE the undersigned, The Governor Treasurer Assistants, and Guardians, of the Poor, of the City of Bristol, impressed with a sense of the great services you have rendered the public at large, and the Establishment of Saint Peters Hospital in particular during the period you have filled the Office of Deputy Governor, beg leave thus respectfully, to make known to you our sentiments, on a subject which is most interesting to us, as connected with the welfare of that Institution

The zeal, firmness, and humanity, with which in times of unexampled difficulty you have fulfilled the arduous duties devolving upon you combined with your easiness of access to all connected with the House, make us look forward with painful anxiety to the prospect of your retirement at this critical juncture ; when nothing but a continuation of that liberal, and enlightened, policy, which has uniformly guided your actions, can rescue the City from the evils of an increased, and increasing, Taxation— .

With these views, . . we hope we shall be excused the liberty

¹ In 1820 there were apparently forty-seven boys in the Hospital (Johnson, *Address to the Inhabitants of Bristol*, p. 43).

² For particulars of this Guardian, see Appendix.

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1819. we now take in soliciting your acceptance, once more, of the arduous trust of Deputy Governor ;

and that you may long continue to enjoy that high estimation which your conduct has so justly merited, and possess every blessing, is the sincere desire of your brother Guardians and fellow Citizens

March 4. 1819

Signed [60 names]

April 8. Mr. McDowall . . . moved That in consequence of the age and increasing infirmities of Mary Atlay the Matron¹ the Duties of which office she is nearly incapable of performing it is desirable that an efficient person should be appointed as an Assistant to the Matron This Court therefore appoints Elizabeth Duncan to be Submatron² . . .

Whereupon Mr. George Jones moved . . that her letter be copied at the foot of these proceedings

Gentlemen

Having been informed that notice of a motion was given at the last Court to appoint me Sub matron, with a view of giving me a Salary for assisting Mrs. Atlay in discharging the arduous duties of her office ; I beg leave respectfully to express my grateful thanks for so generous an intention and to inform you that such an appointment would too much interfere with my present pursuits in business³ therefore I hope to be excused in declining to accept it

I trust the Court will pardon me for observing that the motive which has induced me to render assistance to Mrs. Atlay proceeded from her kindness to me when I was unfortunately bereaved of my Mother and Uncle and for these services I never expected or wished a remuneration—

It will be a source of much gratification to me to be permitted to continue the same gratuitous services which I have hitherto performed but should it be the pleasure of the Court to determine otherwise, I shall pay every proper respect to its decision

I am Gentlemen

St. Peters Hospital

very respectfully yours

April 7th 1819

E. Duncan

¹ Matron from November, 1800, until her death, November, 1823.

² Appointed Matron temporarily, 23rd November, 1823 ; permanently, at the next meeting of the Court, after the age rule had been rescinded.

³ The Rule against having any other profession applied only to the Master at this date.

The Report of the Committee to whom it was referred At the last Court to enquire into the Circumstances attending the treatment of John Jones copied at the foot of these proceedings was read—RESOLVED that the same be received

1819.
June 24.

Resolved that Mr. Packer and Mr. Jones the Surgeons Pupils have acted very improperly in suffering the Ribs taken from the body of John Jones to remain in the Surgery . . . And that they be admonished to be more careful in future

Resolved that the throwing into the River of certain Ribs taken from the body of John Jones deceased is a proceeding highly reprehensible and has the decided disapprobation of this Court and that any person guilty of such an Offence in future or otherwise improperly disposing of human Remains shall be expelled from this House

Mr. Alderman Daniel¹ having explained the Circumstances which induced him to resist the imposition of any apprentice on him as one of the owners of the Venus² and having offered to be the medium of communication with the West India Society and to promote an amicable arrangement Resolved that it be referred to the Committee of expenditure to take such measures with the Cooperation of Mr. Alderman Daniel as may be expedient to effect so desirable an object

December 9.

That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the regulations of the House with regard to the mode in which the Children are brought up in the House and to report the result of their deliberations to the next General Court

1820.
October 12.

RESOLVED unanimously that this Corporation do use their utmost endeavors to check the increase of Vagrants within the City by the employment of an additional number of Officers for the purpose of apprehending persons of that description

December
14.

A Letter from the Solicitors in answer to the question directed to be put to them by the special Committee was read and ordered to be copied at the end of these proceedings.

1822.
July 15.

¹ For particulars of this Guardian, see Appendix.

² See above, under date 13th April, 1704, and footnote ; also Introduction, pp. 23-24.

1822.

Copy of the Letter referred to . . .

James Johnson Esquire Governor

Sir

We have in compliance with the directions of the Special Committee taken into consideration the following question put to us vizt.

“ Is this Corporation bound by law to send home to Ireland all the Irish who are sent to Bristol with regular Passes without any question on the subject or is the Corporation at Liberty to provide them with work and to delay sending them home till they have complied with the orders given them to Labour ”— and we are of opinion that the Corporation of the Poor have no authority to detain the parties named in the respective passes but are bound to obey the direction contained in Such Passes whereby the Constable or other officer to whom the same are delivered is required to apply to the Magistrates for a Warrant directing the Masters of Vessels bound to Ireland to take them on board and we are further of opinion that during the interval which must elapse after their arrival in Bristol and before Shipping can be found for their Transportation the Corporation are bound to relieve them as Casual Poor and have no authority to employ them that authority being limited by all the acts of Parliament to the Cases of Persons having settlements within the City—

We are

Osborne and Ward¹

Broad Street 15 July 1822

1824.
March 15.

RESOLVED unanimously that it is the opinion of this Court that the duties heretofore required to be performed by the Master of this House should in future be divided into two parts—The first comprizing all that appertains to the transacting the usual business of the Counting House and paying the poor to be performed by a person to be called the Master and the second comprizing all that relates to the internal affairs of the House separate from the Counting House to be discharged by a person to be called the House Steward

RESOLVED unanimously that . . . the Salary of the Master should be One hundred and fifty pounds per Annum without board or Lodging and the Salary of the House Steward Eighty pounds per annum together with board lodging and washing

¹ This firm, appointed Solicitors to the Corporation in October, 1760 (on account of the absence of its previous Solicitor with the militia), has held that post ever since.

House Steward's Rules.¹

1824.

5 That he shall not be absent from his post at any time before eight O clock in the evening, nor after eleven O clock at Night ; nor even during those Hours but as seldom as possible : and that he shall enter in a book the time, both of his going out and of his return, and Say where he may be found.

9 That he shall visit every part of the House once at least every day

10 That he shall take care that every Person in the House, capable of Labour, be constantly employed, and keep an account of the work done by them. That he shall see that Vagrants, Women of the Town, . . . be kept entirely separate from the rest of the family and on no account permit them to associate with the Children of the House

12 he shall Superintend and Assist in the daily distribution of the food to the Family, agreeably to the dieting of the House and see that there be no occasions for Complaints of injustice or Partiality

17 That he shall keep the following Books, and lay them before every meeting of the Committee of Expenditure

1 A list of the Children in the House, with their Ages and descriptions . . .

2 A list of the Adult Poor in the House, with an Account of their Ages, trades, infirmities &c—

3 A weekly Account of the Provisions received into the House when received, and the Quantity consumed in each Week

4 An account of the Daily Labour performed by each Person in the House—

5 A Journal of Daily Occurrences

6 An Annual Inventory of all the furniture Beds, and Bedding, Linen and Woollen Cloth, and of all the Materials and Property of every kind

19 That he shall keep the keys of the different Premises used for the employment of the out door Poor, deliver them to their respective Masters and Mistresses, notice in writing the times of their Attendance daily, see that the Hours of School for the Children in the House be Strictly adhered to

¹ Rules 1-4, 6-8, 11, 13-16 and 18 are omitted. They constitute for the most part a repetition of the 1817 rules for the Master with regard to the charge of the House.

1824.
April 23.

To the Honorable the Commons of the united Kingdom

.

The humble Petition of the Governor Deputy Governor,
Assistants and Guardians of the Poor of the City of Bristol

SHEWETH

That by virtue of an Act of Parliament made and passed in the 59th Year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third Poor Persons born in Ireland and becoming chargeable to any Parish are removeable together with their Wives and families by Pass to the Places of their respective Births although such Poor Persons shall not have committed any Act of Vagrancy—

That all such poor Persons whose place of Birth is in the southern Parts of Ireland are usually sent from the Southern and Western Counties of England to Bristol to be thence Conveyed to the Ports of their several destinations in Ireland—

That by reason of the Provision in the said Act of Parliament passed in the 59th Year of the reign of his late Majesty the number of Persons Applying to be sent from the Port of Bristol hath very greatly increased and a very heavy additional expence hath been thereby thrown on the Inhabitants of the said City—

That in the Year immediately preceeding that in which the said Act was Passed Your Petitioners paid for the Conveyance of such Poor Persons the sum of £310 . 8 . 5 only, whilst on the Average of the five Years which have elapsed since that Period those expences have been encreased to £786 per Annum and upwards—

That the Inhabitants of the said City of Bristol derive no advantage from the labours of the Persons so removed they being generally Persons who come over to this Country during the Summer Months in the expectation of finding employment during the Harvest and return Home in the Autumn.

That the Parishes to which these Persons become chargeable are in fact chiefly benefitted by their labors and your petitioners humbly submit that if it shall still be thought expedient to entitle Persons so circumstanced to be sent Home at the expence of this Country some Provision should be made by which those Parishes in which the Burthen Originates and who have benefitted by their labours should be compelled to contribute a Proportion at least of the expences attending the transmission

Your Petitioners beg leave further to submit that no Provision ^{1824.} exists under which they can legally require the Persons so passed to undertake any work or labour during the Period of their necessary detention at the Port and that such a Provision would Operate as a very beneficial check to the Applications which are made in the interior of the Country for Passes by Persons who have concealed Property and would Materially diminish the Number of such Applications . . .

RESOLVED that it be referred to a a Committee to be now ^{1825.} appointed to enquire into and state to a future General Court ^{October 13.} Whether the present Hospital is adequate to the comfortable accomodation of its inmates and how far it would be adviseable that means should be adopted to provide more adequate and comfortable accomodation as well for those already received as for those whom it might be adviseable to recieve in case it should hereafter be thought desireable to extend the number of its inmates and if such Committee shall be of Opinion that it will be desireable to erect a new or additional Workhouse then to take measures for ascertaining the Opinions of the respective vestries on this subject

RESOLVED unanimously that it appears to this Court that the ^{1827.} present embarrassed state of the finances of this Corporation is ^{February 8.} owing partly to the increace of pauperism partly to the Sums lately certified as necessary for the maintenance of the poor having proved inadequate to that purpose but more especially at the present Juncture to the important changes in the Commercial World occasioned by the disastrous and general failure of Credit in the past Year having rendered the Treasurer unwilling to make those advances on the credit of that portion of the Rate Which cannot be collected within the Year on which this Corporation has been accustomed to rely for many years past

RESOLVED unanimously that in order to prevent a recurrence of the serious difficulties caused by this embarrassment it will be the indispensable duty of this Corporation at the ensuing Sessions in April to certify to the Magistrates as requisite for the services of the next Year Such a Sum as shall with the addition of the deficiencies to be reassessed produce in the usual mode of collection a revenue adequate to the expenditure without reducing this corporation to the necessity of calling upon the Treasurer to make

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1827. any advances whatever such advances being in the Opinion of this Court incompatible with the provisions and spirit of the Act under Which this Corporation is constituted

RESOLVED Unanimously that with a view to avert the distressing consequences Which must arise to the poor Inhabitants of this City by any omission of the payments of Weekly reliefs the Committee of Management be . . . authorized to use their best endeavors to obtain on the credit of the uncollected Rates and of this Corporation generally the loan of such Sums as may be necessary for the purposes of this Corporation until the rates to be made for the ensuing Year shall be brought into collection

1828. ORDERED that in addition to the standing Committees . . . A
 August 14. Committee be . . . constituted and appointed to visit the several Workshops and places at which any Paupers are employed by the Corporation in any Work or employment whatsoever

And the following additional Bye Laws . . . are hereby ordained and made to take effect on and from Monday the 18th day of August instant (1828)

That two Members of such Committee do visit the several Paupers in the employment of the Corporation at the several places appointed for such employment twice in each and every week and do enter in a book . . . a minute of the result of their respective visitations

1829. Mr. Warr gave notice that he should at the next General Court
 February 12. move a resolution That the Bye law passed on the 14th of August last appointing a Committee of Guardians to visit the Stonebreakers at the Hotwells be repealed and that one of the Servants of the House be appointed to that duty.

1830. The following persons were elected to serve as Guardians of the
 April 1. Poor for the ensuing four years at the meetings of the different Wards held the first day . . . in April one Thousand eight hundred and Thirty

Trinity	Mr. John Dowell	Hatter
	John Robson	Mercer

Mr. Robson paid the fine as Deputy Governor—afterwards excused as a Guardian . . .

Mr. William Ransford—Hatter Wine Street elected in his Room 1830.
20th June 1832

St. Michael	Mr. Samuel Gustavus Clements	Wholesale Druggist
	John Kent	Wine Merchant
All Saints	Mr. James Lucas	Chinaman
	Joseph Baber	Auctioneer

Mr. Baber Compounded with his Creditors

Mr. William Mackrell Grocer . . in his Room 7th September 1831

St. Thomas	Mr. Thomas Powell	Seedsman . . .
	Alfred Thomas	Grocer . . .

Mr. Powell paid the fine Mr. George Harris Cork Cutter . . . in his Room 15th May 1830

Mr. Alfred Thomas paid the fine Mr. George Atkins Painter . . in his Room 15th May 1830

St. Mary Redcliff	Mr. Thomas Evens	Spirit Merchant . .
	Roger Moore	Tallow Chandler . .

Mr. Thomas Evens excused Mr. Thomas Britton . . Maltster in his Room 10th May 1830

Mr. Thomas Britton excused Mr. Thomas Britton the Younger . . Maltster and Grocer in his Room 24 June 1830

Mr. Thomas Britton Junior Insolvent Mr. William Day Wills . . Tobacconist in his Room 30 May 1830¹

Mr. Roger Moore excused Mr. George Eaton . . Iron Merchant in his Room 10th May 1830

Mr. George Eaton excused Mr. Robert Williams . . Timber Merchant in his Room 24 June 1830

Mr. Robert Williams Insolvent Mr. John Farler in his room 30th April 1833

Castle Precincts	Mr. William Barrett	Hatter . . .
	Thomas Gadd Matthews	Dry Salter . .

Mr. Thomas Gadd Matthews paid the fine Mr. Joseph Rider . . Shoemaker in his Room 5th May 1830

St. Nicholas	Mr. Frederick Smith	Stationer
	John Hillier	Grocer
St. James	Mr. Richard Morgan	Brewer
	Samuel Burleigh	Currier
St. Ewen	Mr. Thomas Rankin	Merchant . . .
	Alfred Short	Goldsmith . . .

¹ Clerical error for 1832.

1830. Mr. Alfred Short paid the fine Mr. George Smith the Younger . .
 Merchant in his Room 22nd June 1830
 Mr. George Smith disabled by Palsy Mr. Joseph Bingham in his
 Room 30 May 1832 (Newsvender . .)
 St. Stephen Mr. Thomas Burnell Engraver
 Lovel Pilter Merchant
 Temple Mr. Richard Frank Ring Coal
 Merchant . .
 Samuel Moon Stationer . . .
 St Mary lePort Mr. Henry Neyler Straw bonnett
 Manufacturer
 Joseph Durban Grocer
 Mr. Joseph Durban Insolvent Mr. John Wright Stationer . . in
 his Room 30 May 1832

December 9. The Court having received and taken into consideration the
 representations of numerous inhabitants and Ratepayers of the
 parish of St. Thomas the Ward of St. James and the parish of
 St. Mary Redcliff requesting that this Court would insert in the
 proposed Bill a provision giving to the inhabitants of that Ward
 and those parishes a power of revising and making alterations
 and Corrections in the Rates which power is now settled in the
 Vestries

Resolved that this Court will not offer any opposition on the
 part of this Corporation to the introduction of such a Clause
 provided it be extended to all the parishes of the City but it
 cannot undertake to interfere between the parties interested in
 the question or to incur any risk of expence or opposition to the
 Bill . . .

Committee of Visitors

1831. 1 That this Committee shall meet at the Hospital on every
 August 11. Monday . . . that, either on that day or on some subsequent
 day in the same week, two or more of them shall visit the
 House, and one or more of them shall visit the Workshops
 and places at which paupers are employed by this Corporation,
 so that the whole economy of the Family, Workshops, &c,
 may be fully laid open to their inspection

- October 13. The Recommendation of the Committee to make an addition of
 £40 per annum to the Masters¹ present Salary to commence

¹ Joseph Webb, appointed 15th March, 1824, when the duties of Master
 and House Steward were divided; in the Corporation's employ as early as
 1812; salary in 1831, £150 non-resident.

from the 29th day of September last and further as a Special ^{1831.} Mark of their sense of the Masters invariable integrity ability and attention to the duties of his office and the interests of the Corporation committed to him, a Gratuity of One hundred pounds. was taken into consideration.

RESOLVED unanimously that the Recommendation of the Committee be adopted and the proposed addition to the Masters Salary and the Gratuity . . . paid to him accordingly but this Court desires to record its opinion that the proposed Salary ought not to be given in the first instance to any Master whose Services were untried and in the present instance is only justified by the experience the Corporation has had of the great value of the present Masters Services which induces them to believe that in thus securing the continuance of those Valuable services they shall best consult the interests of their Constituents in point of Economy.

A letter from Messrs. Brice and Burges accompanying the heads of two Bills proposed to be brought into Parliament, the one for the establishment of a more effective Police and the other for the more easily providing compensation for the damages committed in the City during the late Riots¹ and stating that the full approval of the Citizens to these Bills prior to their being presented to Parliament was considered essential by the Civic Corporation having been read and taken into consideration—

^{1832.}
March 20.

It was RESOLVED unanimously

That this Corporation without pledging itself to the details which appear to require (especially as regards the particular Interests of this Corporation) various modifications highly approves of the general principle of both the proposed measures, which appear well calculated to promote the future peace and tranquillity of the City—to secure the property of its Inhabitants—to facilitate the means of ascertaining the extent and providing for the payment of the compensation and to obviate . . . the distress attendant on any attempt to raise the requisite amount by a Single Rate under the existing general law

The following Persons were Elected to Serve as Guardians of the ^{April 5.}

¹ 29th to 31st October, 1831. The damages accepted were: £5,000 for Corporation property; £10,500 by Government for the Customs House; £8,040 for the Bishop's Palace, furniture, etc.; £42,783 for private claims. Law expenses cost £7,424, and the necessary Act of Parliament £4,960. Heads of the proposed Compensation Bill are given in *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal*, 17th March, 1831. The raising of the Compensation Rate was undertaken by the Corporation of the Poor.

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1832.

Poor for the Ensuing four years at the meetings held in the different Wards on . . the 5th day of April One Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirtytwo—

Trinity	Mr. William Ridgeway	Merchant . .
	James Ezekiel Nash	Ditto . .
Mr. Nash paid the Fine Mr. Edward Jarrett Ransford, Hatter . . in his Room . . 25 th April 1832		
St. Michael	Mr. John Irving	Merchant . .
	James Moutrie	Music Seller . .
Mr. Irving—excused—Mr. William Hole—Gun Maker . . in his Room elected 20 th June 1832		
All Saints	Mr. Thomas Mills	Nicholas Street
	Job Harrill	Corn Street
St. Thomas	Mr. William Greenslade	Brushmaker . .
	Samuel Lorymer	Starch Maker . .
Mr. Lorymer, became a Bankrupt—Mr. James Young, Cork Cutter, . . in his Room . . 22 nd October 1835		
St. Mary Redcliff	Mr. William Harris	Gentleman . . .
	William Brookman	Confectioner . .
Castle Precincts	Mr. Thomas Lyne	Gentleman . .
	William Fletcher	Soap Maker . .
Mr. Fletcher dead Mr. Roger Oxenham . . Woollen draper in his Room 21 st November 1832		
St. Nicholas	Mr. Charles Reed	Wine Merchant
	William Randall	Commission
		Merchant . .
Mr. Reed excused, Mr. Robert S May Ship Biscuit Baker . . in his Room . . 25 April 1832		
St. James	Mr. John Wesley Hall	Glass
		Merchant . .
	Philip Rose	Printer . .
St. Ewen	Mr. William Lander	Engraver . .
	Thomas John Manchee	Stationer . .
St. Stephen	Mr. James Billings Badham	Wool
		Merchant . .
	Robert Padmore Clark	Ship Broker . .
Mr Clark, resigned, Mr. W. H. Land Ship broker . . in his Room 30 th December 1833		
Temple	Mr. James Coulsting	Gentleman . .
	William Tothill	Chemist . .
St. Mary le Port	Mr. John Righton	Ironmonger . .
	Charles Webb	Brushmaker . .

A Letter from Dr. Howell as Honorary Secretary of the Board of Health addressed to the Clerks having been read . . . and the same having been taken into consideration 1832.
May 21.

RESOLVED unanimously That as it appears by the examination of the faculty of this House that the general health of the labouring Classes of this City is in a more favorable state than usual at this period of the Year, that the disease called the Cholera has not yet appeared in this City and that with respect to the Case in the parish of Clifton there was a diversity of Opinion among those who attended on it, As great exertions have been made as well by this House as by benevolent individuals to cleanse the residences and increase the comforts of the poor and facilities exist for providing within 48 hours every accomodation that may be necessary should the disease become epidemical in this City it is the opinion of this Court that it is not expedient at the present moment to comply with the Application of the Board of Health¹

A Letter from Mr. James Wood on behalf of the Subcommittee of . . . Delegates relative to the proposed Bill for raising the funds necessary to Compensate the Sufferers by the late Riots . . . having been read and taken into consideration.

RESOLVED unanimously that the request contained in the said letter be acceded to.

To the Governor, . . . and Guardians of the Poor of the City of Bristol
Gentlemen—

It having been deemed adviseable . . . with a View to the relief of the City from the protracted continuance of a Board of Commissioners during the whole period requisite for the full administration of the Funds to be raised for the Compensation to Sufferers in the late Riots that upon the ascertainment of the Amount the subsequent management of the fund should be undertaken by the Corporation of the Poor, I have . . . to request the favor of your taking the subject into your consideration and trust that the Committee will receive your Assent to this Suggestion—a compliance with which we apprehend will not be attended with any material additional labor nor any responsibility—

¹ According to newspaper statistics, the cholera had ceased in London by 15th May, but there were still 182 cases in the provinces, of which 54 were new that week.

1832.

The mode in which we propose to effect this is . . . to provide that the funds borrowed for the payment of the damages when ascertained shall be discharged by Annual Assessments in conjunction with the sum requisite for the purposes of your Corporation . . .

The Amount of the monies which shall be collected and be applicable for the purposes of the proposed compensation will be in the proportion which the sum certified by you shall bear to the Annual instalment of £10,000 which we propose as the limit of the Yearly levy under the intended Act . . . and we shall make provision that in no event shall the monies raised for the purposes of your Corporation be liable to be broken in upon for the object of the proposed Act . . .

Board of Health Office
Council House 15th May 1832

Gentlemen—

. . I am directed to state that the Board is most desirous not to incur any expence which may not be absolutely required in case the Cholera should break out

. . . . The Board therefore anxious to fulfil its duty to the public begs to impress upon the Corporation of the poor the urgent necessity of being prepared for such an event and proposes for that purpose the erection of a Cholera Hospital to contain from 30 to 40 patients and also to hire a Building for the temporary removal and accomodation of persons from Houses in which the disease may break out—Having no funds applicable for obtaining regular plans and estimates the Board calculate that the erection of the Hospital and the purchase of Bedding and Furniture will amount to about £300 and the hire of the house of reception £200 more

Should the disease break out a further provision . . . will be required for further accomodation, for Medicine, Medical Attendants, Nurses and other . . . expenses, but as the Board in the first instance only wishes . . . to be enabled to treat the Disease in the most efficient manner at its onset, the period at which it has invariably shewn itself most fatal, it limits its present application to the above Sum

June 14.

A proposal having been suggested by the Governor to the Committee of Management for taking a lease of Brandon Hill for 30 Years at £30 per Annum for the purpose of affording

employment to the poor by laying out the ground in Walks and 1832.
Gardens

Resolved that this Court highly approves of the proposal and authorizes the Committee of Management to treat with the Corporation of the City and to carry the Scheme into effect in such a way as the Committee may deem most adviseable.¹

RESOLVED unanimously That the Committee of Management be July 17.
empowered to hire or erect forthwith such Hospital or Hospitals House or Houses of observation from time to time as may from the state of the disease called Cholera² be necessary and also to provide Medical Attendance Nurses Food Medicine and other necessary articles whenever and wherever they may be required and to communicate with the Board of Healh on the subject and to apply every means possessed by this Corporation for the speedy suppression of the disease—

RESOLVED unanimously that the Physicians and surgeons of this Corporation be directed to meet at this House daily to receive information and to adopt such measures as from time to time may be deemed necessary as long as Cholera prevails in the City.

RESOLVED unanimously That a Copy of the foregoing Resolutions be forwarded to the Mayor and to the Board of Health with a request that a daily report of all cases of Cholera may be made to the Governor of this Corporation and that that request be accompanied with the Assurance that every facility in the power of this Corporation will be afforded for the adoption of Measures for arresting the progress of the disease—

RESOLVED unanimously That in the opinion of this Court the Governor Deputy Governor Physicians and Surgeons of this establishment should have been originally made Members of the Board of Healh and this Court can see no sufficient reason for their exclusion—The Corporation of the poor being legally entrusted with the Sole Administration of the Revenues appropriated to the Maintenance and releif of the Poor do not feel themselves justified in confiding voluntarily that

¹ *Felix Farley's Bristol Journal* published on 30th June a letter from the Mayor and a resolution of the City Council rejecting this scheme, "having considered the several reports of the Surveyors of the City Lands, and of the Law Officers thereon." A correspondent, T. Rankin, comments that the City Corporation is "greatly disappointed" at this result.

² The first three cases in Bristol were notified by the Board of Health on 12th July. For the mortality in St. Peter's Hospital see Introduction, p. 14.

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1832. administration to any body of persons of which they form no part¹

July 31. The Court having then proceeded to take into Consideration the suggestion of the Court of Assistants on the Subject of furnishing 12 boys with the means of proceeding to Canada
RESOLVED that such boys in this House above the Age of 14 Years not exceeding 12 in number who may desire to proceed to Canada be furnished with cloathing and be enabled to proceed to that Country and that the Committee of Management do apply to this purpose the Sum of Eight pounds each including about three pounds each to be paid to them on their arrival in such sums as the Agents of Mr. Clarke and Mr. Randle may deem adviseable

1833. RESOLVED unanimously that this Court has learned with
June 27. sorrow the severe indisposition of Mr. Washbourn and that while they regret the loss of his valuable services it is necessary to provide for the proper discharge of the duties of the Office by the Appointment of another House Steward And that it is the desire of this Court that every attention should be paid to secure to Mr. Washbourn those comforts which his situation may require

August 8. RESOLVED unanimously that it would be highly advantageous to the City and beneficial to the individuals themselves to encourage the Emigration of our Pauper population to the British Colonies that it be therefore recommended to the Committee of Management to accomplish this object in the best possible manner always keeping in view such arrangements as may best provide for the present Comforts and future advantage of the Emigrants and taking care that none be urged to emigrate against their inclinations.²

1834. The following Persons were elected to serve as Guardians of the
April 10. Poor for the ensuing four years . . . on . . . the 3rd day of April One thousand eight hundred and thirty four

Trinity	Mr. John Chilcott	Stationer . .
	„ William Henry Oxley	Hosier . .

¹ A Resolution of 31st July implies that this protest was successful, and that members had been nominated to the Board of Health by the Assistants.

² Cf. Introduction, pp. 9-10.

St. Michael	Mr. Benjamin Pring the Younger	Maltster . .	1834.
	„ Thomas Bowman	Merchant . .	
All Saints	Mr. Ignatius Davis	Insurance Broker . .	
	„ James Jones	Trunk Maker . .	
St. Thomas	Mr. William Taylor	Trunk Maker . .	
	„ George Gane	Wool Merchant . .	
Mr. Gane, excused ; Mr. Richard Hasell, Soap Boiler			
in his room 23 ^d April 1834			
St. Mary Redcliff	Mr. Charles Price	Ironmonger . .	
	„ Christopher J. Thomas	Soap Boiler . .	
Castle Precincts	Mr. Aurelius John Drewe	Wharfinger . .	
	„ Joseph Dando	Hatter . .	
St. Nicholas	Mr. Henry Chidgey Quinton	Merchant . .	
	„ William Naish	Shoemaker . .	
Mr. Naish, excused ; Mr. Valentine Hellicar, Merchant, . . in his room 23 rd April 1834			
St. James	Mr. William Herapath	Gentleman . .	
	„ Thomas Hingston	Cabinet Maker . .	
Mr. Hingston, Bankrupt ; Mr. Thomas Capenhurst, Coffin Furniture Manufacturer in his room 28 th October 1834			
St. Ewen	Mr. William Burgess	Harness Maker . .	
	„ Samuel Stokes	Victualler . .	
Mr. Stokes, excused ; Mr. William Withers, Cooper . . in his room 22 nd April 1834			
St. Stephen	Mr. Edward Masey	Cooper . .	
	„ Edward York Hazard	Block Maker . .	
Temple	Mr. Joseph Bartlett	Spirit Merchant . .	
	„ Joseph Rumbold	Saddler . .	
Mary leport	John Sykes Bramhall	Cutler . .	
	John T. Withey	Woollen Draper . .	
Mr. Bramhall, Bankrupt, Mr. Henry Penton, Undertaker, in his room 13 th April 1837			
Mr. Withey paid the fine Mr. Samuel Morgan, Linen Draper, . . in his room 6 th May 1834			

1834.
May 15.

The Court took into consideration the provisions of the Bill now before Parliament for the amendment and better administration of the Laws relating to the Poor in England and Wales—Also certain Resolutions of the Committee of Management on the subject of such Bill approving of the principle thereof but objecting to some of the details—Which Resolutions having been discussed seriatim the same subject to some alterations were approved and directed to be copied at the foot of these proceedings

That the present administration of the Poor laws, is extremely defective ; and tends greatly to increase the burthen, of local taxation, and to demoralise the habits of the labouring Classes ; that . . this Committee highly approves of the remedial measures recommended by the Poorlaw Commissioners But that, while they thus express their approbation of the principle . . . they strongly disapprove of some of the details.

That the powers with which the Central Board of Commissioners is to be invested, are highly objectionable.

That they ought not to be entrusted with the power of committing for contempt of their own orders :

That they should not have the power of interfering with bodies of Guardians incorporated by local Acts of parliament, where two thirds of the Guardians, or a majority of the rate payers are contented with the existing management, except by suggestions and recommendations, or on the requisition of the Guardians or rate payers themselves.

That the several parishes of this City have been long united for the purposes of the Poor Laws, and any separation of them for the purpose of altering the proportions of their several contributions according to the number of their paupers, will be fraught with the most serious injustice.

That the present mode of electing Guardians in the City of Bristol for periods of four years, one half retiring from Office every two years—, with a fine as a penalty for not serving, has been found to work well in practice ;

That as the occupying rate payers alone contribute to the support of the poor, the making the owners of property in large towns eligible as electors, without their being liable to Serve as Guardians . . . would be extremely unjust.

That as the Bristol Workhouse is especially constituted a Lunatic Asylum by Act of Parliament, and has in that character

proved highly advantageous to the inhabitants, Bristol . . . 1834.
should be exempted from the operation of the 37th Clause. . . .

That as the new Bill, if passed into a law unaltered, will repeal our local Acts, it is highly expedient that a Deputation do forthwith proceed to London to procure an interview with His Majesty's Ministers, . . . and to take such others steps, as they may deem expedient to protect the interests of the City of Bristol

Resolved unanimously

November
11.

That application be made to the Poor Law Commissioners for England and Wales, to order and direct this Corporation to purchase, the Buildings Lands and premises at Stapleton now occupied by this Corporation under Lease from the Commissioners for executing the Office of Lord High Admiral of England¹ and to fit up the Same as an additional Workhouse in such manner as the said Commissioners shall deem proper

Resolved unanimously

That in the event of such order being made, the Committee of Management be authorized to conclude the treaty now in progress for the purchase of the said Buildings Lands and Premises at Stapleton aforesaid and inasmuch as in the event of such order . . . the buildings and premises called the Armoury² purchased under . . . the act passed in the first year of his present Majestys Reign will not be necessary . . . for the purposes of the Acts under which the Corporation is constituted.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED

That the same shall be put up for Sale by Public Auction

¹ The " French prison," which in the years 1806-9 is said to have accommodated 5,500 prisoners of war, was hired by the Corporation from the Admiralty in 1833, at £80 a year, fitted up as a Workhouse, and bought in 1837 for £2,000.

² This building, which was rented by the City Council at £200 per annum, was sold at a loss of £1,100; the price and that of the Shirehampton estate went towards the purchase of the Admiralty prison.

APPENDIX

BIOGRAPHICAL PARTICULARS OF GUARDIANS MENTIONED IN THESE RECORDS.

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V.=Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
Henry Gibbs or Gibbes.	1696	Alderman ; Warden, S.M.V.	2 years	Merchant.
Charles Jones, junior.	1696 and 1697	Treasurer, S.M.V.	10 years ; Assistant 7 years.	Merchant.
Isaac Davis or Davies.	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Warden, S.M.V.	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	Merchant. Gave Corporation £25 in 1699, and £100 by will.
James Wallis ..	1696	Councillor.	4 years.	Surgeon.
Robert Yate ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Mayor ; Sheriff ; Master, S.M.V. ; M.P. 1695-1710.	2 years ; Assistant 1 year ; then Hon. Guardian ¹ and afterwards Governor.	Candidate for Parliament, 1690 and 1710 ; "Major" and "Colonel," and probably of militia.
John Blackwell ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor twice.	2 years.	—
Nathaniel Wade ..	1696 and 1697	Town Clerk ; Councillor ; Steward of Sheriff's Court.	12 years ; Assistant 7 years ; Deputy Governor 1 year.	Gave Corporation £50. "Major," probably of militia.
Peter Saunders ..	1696	Councillor ; Alderman ; Mayor ; Sheriff ; Master, S.M.V., twice.	4 years ; Assistant 1 year ; Treasurer 1 year ; then Hon. Guardian and later Deputy Governor.	Gave Corporation £100 in 1700 and £200 by will.

¹ Donors of £100 or more might be made Honorary Guardians by the Court of Guardians.

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V.=Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
George Lott ..	1696	—	2 years.	—
James Steward or Stewart.	1696	—	2 years.	—
Joseph Fincher ..	1696	—	4 years.	"Captain," probably of militia.
Samuel Whiting ..	1696	—	4 years.	—
James Millerd or Millard.	1696	Coroner.	2 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
Nathaniel Day ..	1696	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor.	2 years ; Assistant 1 year ; later (as Alderman) Governor 1 year.	Soap maker.
Francis Whitchurch	1696	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor.	4 years ; Assistant 3 years ; later (as Alderman) Governor 2 years.	"Captain," probably of militia. Gave Corporation £25 in 1699.
Henry Parsons ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor.	4 years.	Gave Corporation £60 by will.
Robert Bound ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor ; Warden, S.M.V.	2 years ; later (as Alderman) Governor 1 year.	—
James Hallidge or Hollidge.	1696	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Mayor ; Chamberlain ; Master, S.M.V., twice.	2 years ; Assistant 1 year.	Merchant.
Edward Tocknell ..	1696	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Chamberlain ; Master, S.M.V., twice.	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	Merchant.
John Seward ..	1696	Councillor ; Warden, S.M.V.	4 years.	—
Sir John Duddlestone.	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Master, S.M.V.	2 years ; then Hon. Guardian ; Assistant 2 years ; Deputy Governor 1 year ; Governor 1 year.	—

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V.=Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
Sir William Daines	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor ; Master, S.M.V., twice ; M.P. 1701-10 and 1715-22.	3 years ; then Hon. Guardian ; Assistant 2 years ; Governor 1 year.	Candidate for Parliament, 1710 and 1713.
John Batchelor or Bachelor.	1696	Councillor ; Alderman ; Mayor ; Sheriff ; Master, S.M.V., twice.	12 years ; Assistant 3 years, Governor 2 years.	Linen draper ; gave £50 in 1700.
Richard Codrington.	—	—	4 years ; Assistant 4 years.	Mercer.
Abraham Edwards	1696	—	Died 3 months after election.	
Marmaduke Bowdler	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Warden, S.M.V.	2 years.	—
James Harris ..	1696 and 1697	—	2 years ; died soon after his second election ; Treasurer 1 year.	Merchant ; " Captain," probably of militia.
George Stephens ..	1696	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor.	4 years ; Assistant 1 year ; later, Treasurer 1 year, and (as Alderman) Governor 1 year.	Gave Corporation £20 in 1700.
John Yeamans ..	1696	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Warden, S.M.V.	2 years.	Present only twice at Court meetings.
Joseph Hooke ..	1696	—	2 years.	Never present.
Thomas Hort ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Mayor ; Master, S.M.V., twice.	4 years.	—
Anthony Swimmer or Swymmer.	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor ; Master, S.M.V.	4 years ; later (as Alderman) Governor 1 year.	Merchant. Gave Corporation £50 in 1700.
William Lewis ..	1696	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor.	2 years ; later (as Alderman) Governor 1 year.	Knighted in 1703.

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V. = Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
William Clarke ..	1696	Master, S.M.V., 3 times.	2 years.	—
William Whitehead	1696, 1697 and 1707	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor.	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	" Captain," probably of militia. Gave Corporation £50 in 1703.
Richard Taylor ..	1696	Councillor ; Sheriff.	7 years ; Assistant 4 years.	—
Edward Hacket ..	1696	—	2 years ; Assistant 1 year.	Grocer. Gave Corporation £10 in 1699.
Thomas Goldney ..	1696	—	2 years ; Assistant 1 year.	Grocer.
John Curtis ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Vice-Chamberlain.	4 years.	—
Thomas Tyler ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Sheriff.	4 years.	Grocer. Gave Corporation £10 in 1699.
Thomas Edwards ..	1696 and 1702	—	6 years ; Assistant 1 year ; later Hon. Guardian, and Governor 1 year.	Gave Corporation £100 in 1699.
James Freeman ..	1696 and 1697	—	2 years.	Declined election to Council, 1686.
Thomas Whitson ..	1696	—	2 years.	" Discharged," September, 1698.
Cornelius Sergeant or Serjent.	1696 and 1697	—	4 years.	Soap-boiler.
John Whiting ..	1696	Councillor.	2 years ; Assistant 1 year.	—
Thomas Callowhill ..	1696, 1697, etc.	—	6 years ; Assistant 3 years ; Treasurer 1 year ; then Hon. Guardian and later Deputy Governor 1 year.	Linen draper. Declined election to City Council in 1685.

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V. = Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
John Cary ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Warden, S.M.V.	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	Merchant. Candidate for Parliament in 1698. Chief maker of the Corporation.
Walter Chapman ..	1696 and 1697	City Sword-Bearer.	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
Samuel Wallis ..	1696 and 1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor.	(As Alderman) first Governor, 2 years ; Hon. Guardian.	Gave Corporation £25 in 1700 for annual sermon.
William Jackson ..	1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor ; Master, S.M.V.	(As Alderman) Deputy Governor 1 year ; Governor 1 year.	Attended fairly frequently, 1696-1700, even when not in office.
Sir William Hayman	1697	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor ; Master, S.M.V.	—	Present fairly frequently as Alderman, 1696-7 and 1700.
George Mason ..	1697	Councillor ; Master, S.M.V.	2 years ; then as Hon. Guardian ; Assistant 3 years ; Deputy Governor 1 year.	Attended regularly when Hon. Guardian.
Richard Bayly ..	1697	Councillor ; Sheriff.	Hon. Guardian in same year as elected ; Deputy Governor 1 year.	Merchant.
Edward Martindale	1697	—	Hon. Guardian in same year as elected ; Assistant 1 year ; Treasurer 1 year ; Deputy Governor 1 year.	Attended regularly when Hon. Guardian. Gave Corporation 5 houses in Castle Green. Merchant.
Charles Harford ..	1697	—	4 years ; Assistant 1 year ; Treasurer 1 year.	Merchant. Gave Corporation £60 in 1700.
William Smith ..	1697	—	4 years.	Merchant. Gave Corporation £100 in 1705.

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V.= Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
Edward Lloyd ..	1697	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	Merchant. Gave Corporation £50 in 1698.
Edward Jones ..	1700	Warden, S.M.V.	4 years.	—
William Andrews ..	1700	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	" Captain," probably of militia.
Samuel Jacob ..	1700	President of Gloucester Society.	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	Apothecary.
Samuel Whitchurch	1701	—	4 years.	—
William Riston or Rishton.	1701	Councillor.	2 years.	—
William Bayly ..	1701	Councillor ; Sheriff.	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	—
Henry Samson or Sampson.	1701	—	12 years ; Assistant 8 years ; Deputy Governor 1 year.	—
Onesiphorus Tyndall	1702-3	Councillor ; Sheriff.	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
John Cooke ..	1702-3	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Chamberlain ; Master, S.M.V.	4 years.	—
Joseph Willoughby	1702-3	—	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	—
William Higgs ..	1702-3	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
Nicholas Hicks ..	1724	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor	Governor 2 years.	—
John Brickdale ..	1758	—	Deputy Governor 1 year ; Governor 2 years.	—
Joseph Godwin ..	1758	—	4 years ; Assistant 1 year ; Deputy Governor 1 year.	—

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V. = Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
John Vaughan ..	1758	—	At least 9 years ; Assistant 1 year ; Treasurer 4 years.	
Stephen Nash ..	1764	Councillor ; Sheriff.	4 years ; Treasurer 2 years ; Governor 2 years.	Knighted 1786.
Frederick Yeamans	1764	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years ; Deputy Governor 1 year.	—
James Hill ..	1767	Councillor ; Sheriff ; Mayor.	4 years.	—
Richard Vaughan	1767	—	16 years ; Governor 2 years ; Treasurer 10 years.	—
William Edwards	1767	—	1 year (as Churchwarden).	—
John David ..	1767	President of Dolphin Society.	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
William Owen ..	1767	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
Sir John Durbin ..	1785	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor twice.	Governor 2 years.	Perhaps appointed especially for the reform campaign ; had attended no meetings for about 2 years previously.
Samuel Watts ..	1790	—	8 years.	—
James Ewer ..	1790	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
John Pountney ..	1790	—	8 years ; Assistant 1 year.	—
Robert Fry ..	1790	—	4 years.	—
Thomas Batchelor	1807	—	14 years ; Assistant 8 years ; Deputy Governor 4 years.	Service terminated by his leaving the city in 1810.

Name.	Date when mentioned.	Civic and other offices. [S.M.V. = Society of Merchant Venturers.]	Service as Guardian.	Any other particulars.
Thomas Daniel ..	1807 and 1819	Councillor ; Alderman ; Sheriff ; Mayor twice ; Master, S.M.V. ; J.P.	(As Alderman) Governor 2 years; Treasurer 8 years.	Nicknamed " King of Bristol."
Richard Lambert	1807	—	4 years ; Assistant 1 year; Deputy Governor 2 years.	—
John Birtill ..	1807	—	7 years (till his death) ; Assistant 5 years; Deputy Governor 2 years.	—
Thomas Morris ..	1807	—	8 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
Francis Grigg ..	1807	—	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	—
Joseph Slocombe ..	1807	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
William Terrett ..	1807	—	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	—
Isaac Stephens ..	1807	—	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	—
John Hutchins, junior.	1807	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
John Emery ..	1807	—	4 years ; Assistant 3 years.	—
James Johnson ..	1819	—	12 years ; Assistant 3 years; Deputy Governor 3 years; Governor 3 years.	Author of <i>Transactions of the Corporation of the Poor</i> (1826) and other publications on the subject.
Charles McDowall..	1819	—	4 years ; Assistant 2 years.	—
George Jones ..	1819	President of Grateful Society.	8 years ; Assistant 4 years.	—

APPENDIX (A)

Anno septimo & octavo Gulielmi III Regis.

An Act for erecting of Hospitals and Workhouses within the City of Bristol, for the better employing and maintaining the Poor thereof.

Whereas it is found by Experience, That the Poor in the City of *Bristol* do daily multiply, and Idleness and Debauchery amongst the meaner Sort doth greatly increase, for want of Workhouses to set them to work, and a sufficient Authority to compel them thereto, as well to the Charge of the Inhabitants, and Grief of the charitable and honest Citizens of the said City, as the great Distress of the Poor themselves ; for which sufficient Redress hath not yet been provided : FOR REMEDY WHEREOF BE IT ENACTED by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That from and after the Twelfth Day of *May*, which shall be in the Year of our Lord, One thousand six hundred ninety and six, there be, and shall be a Corporation to continue for ever within the said City of *Bristol*, and the County thereof, consisting of the several Persons herein after mentioned, (that is to say) of the Mayor and Aldermen for the time being, and of Eight and forty other Persons, to be chosen out of the honestest and discreetest Inhabitants of the said City and County, by the Eleven Wards in the said City, and the Castle Precincts there ; which, to all Intents and Purposes, shall be from henceforth for ever a Ward within the said City, (that is to say) Four out of each Ward, and of such other charitable Persons as shall be elected and constituted Guardians of the Poor of the said City, in manner as is herein after expressed : And the said first Eight and forty Persons shall be elected at a Court for that Purpose to be held within each Ward, by the Alderman of the same, or his Deputy, by the Votes of the Inhabitants of such Ward, paying One Penny *per* Week, or more, in his own Right, for and

towards the Relief of the Poor of the said City, or of the major Part of them then present.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Eight and forty Persons shall be chosen in manner, as aforesaid, the said Twelfth Day of *May* next following, and shall continue in their Office until others shall be elected in their Rooms, according to the Direction herein after mentioned : And in case any of the said Persons so elected, or any other Person elected in their Room, shall, after their respective Elections, happen to die, that then it shall and may be lawful to and for the Alderman of the Ward, for which such Person so dying was elected, or his Deputy, at a Court to be held within the said Ward for that Purpose, within the Space of Ten Days next after the Death of such Persons, to elect others in their Place, in manner, as aforesaid ; which Court and Election such Alderman, or his Deputy, is and are hereby required to hold and make : Which said Mayor and Aldermen, and Forty eight Persons, and such other charitable Persons, so elected and constituted for the time being, shall be called *Guardians of the Poor of the City of Bristol*.

AND to the intent that the said Guardians, so elected out of the said Wards, may have perpetual Succession ; BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said respective Aldermen for the time being, or their respective Deputies, shall and may, and are hereby required, on the First *Thursday* in *April*, in every Second Year, from henceforth, to hold a Court in their respective Wards, and then and there, by the Votes of the Inhabitants of such Ward, so qualified, as aforesaid, or of the Majority of them then present, to elect and choose Two of the honestest and discreetest Persons out of the said Inhabitants of the said City, to be Guardians of the Poor of the said City, for the said Ward ; which said Two Persons, so elected, shall be Guardians, and shall succeed the two Persons before that Time first elected, and then being Guardians for the said Ward ; and the said Two Persons so first elected, shall immediately upon such Election, and Notice thereof given to them, cease to be Guardians.

AND BE IT ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Mayor, Aldermen, Eight and forty Persons, and such other charitable Persons elected and constituted, as is herein mentioned and expressed, for the time being, shall for ever hereafter, in

Name and Fact, be one Body Politick and Corporate in Law, to all Intents and Purposes, and shall have a perpetual Succession, and be called by the Name of *The Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, and Guardians of the Poor in the said City of Bristol*; and that they shall be enabled to plead and sue, and to be sued and impleaded by that Name, in all Courts and Places of Judicature within this Kingdom; and by that Name shall and may, without Licence in Mortmain, purchase, take, or receive any Lands, Tenements, or Hereditaments, of the Gift, Alienation, or Demise of any Person or Persons, who are hereby without further Licence, enabled to transfer the same, and any Goods and Chattels whatsoever, for the Use and Benefit of the Corporation aforesaid. And for the better governing of the said Corporation, the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Eight and forty Persons, or the Majority of them, shall have, and hereby have Authority to meet on the Nineteenth Day of *May* next following, in St. GEORGE'S CHAPEL in the said City, or in some other convenient Place there; and shall, on that Day, or any other Day or Time that to them shall seem convenient, elect and constitute out of and from amongst themselves, the several Officers following, (that is to say) One Governor, One Deputy Governor, One Treasurer, and Twelve Assistants, to continue in the said Office for One Year, and no longer; and from thenceforth the said Governor, Deputy Governor, Assistants, Treasurer, and other Officers, shall yearly, and every Year, by the said Mayor, Aldermen, Forty eight Persons, and such other charitable Persons as shall be elected and constituted, as is herein mentioned and expressed, or the Majority of them, be elected and constituted, out of and from amongst themselves, on the Second *Thursday* in the Month of *April*, or any other Day or Time, as they shall think convenient, to continue in their respective Offices for One Year, and no longer: And the said Mayor, Aldermen, and Forty eight Persons, and such other charitable Persons, that shall be elected and constituted, as is herein mentioned and expressed, for the time being, or the Majority of them, shall have Power, in case of the Death of any such Officer so elected and constituted, before their said Year expired, to elect and constitute others in their Room, to hold the said Office for the Remainder of the said Year; and shall have Power and Authority, at any Time or Times, for just Cause, to remove, displace, and put out any such Officer out of his said Office, and to elect and constitute another in his Room.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Governor, or in his Default, the said Deputy Governor, or in both their Defaults, Six of the said Assistants for the time being, shall have, and hereby have Power and Authority, and are hereby enjoined and required, from time to time, upon the Second *Thursday* in every Second Month in every Year, accounting *January* for the First Month, to hold and keep a Court or Assembly of the said Corporation within the said City of *Bristol*, of One, and twenty of the said Guardians at least, on the Days and Time and in Manner, and for the Ends in this Act mentioned ; (that is to say) The said Governor shall hold the said Court or Assembly between the Hours of One and Two in the Afternoon ; and in his Default, the said Deputy Governor, or any Six of the said Assistants, shall, after the Hour of Two, hold the same ; and also, the said Governor for the time being, shall have, and hereby hath Power and Authority, at any such other Time or Times, as to him shall seem meet, to summon, assemble, and hold a Court or Assembly of the said Corporation, upon Two Days Notice or Warning at the least to be given of such Court or Assembly to be held : And in case any Twenty of the said Guardians, upon any Emergency, signifying it under their Hands to the Governor for the time being, That it is their Desire that an extraordinary Court or Assembly of the said Corporation may be called and held, the said Governor shall be bound, and is hereby enjoined and required to call and hold such Court or Assembly at such Time as the said Twenty Guardians shall so desire ; and on his Refusal, the said Deputy Governor for the time being, on such Signification, shall be bound, and is hereby likewise enjoined and required to call and hold the said Court or Assembly ; and on his Refusal, any Six of the Assistants shall have, and hereby have Authority to call and hold the said Court or Assembly ; at all which Courts or Assemblies, all and every Member and Members of the said Corporation for the time being, are hereby enjoined to appear, and be present, and not to depart from the same without the Licence of the said Court or Assembly, on Pain to forfeit such reasonable Sum and Sums of Money, not exceeding Five Shillings, to the Use of the said Corporation, as by the said Court or Assembly, or any succeeding Court or Assembly, shall be assessed upon them, unless they can shew some reasonable Excuse to be allowed of by the said Court or Assembly : And the said Court or Assembly are hereby empowered to summon to

appear before them any of the Inhabitants of the said City, to answer to Matters relating to the said Corporation, who are hereby required to appear upon such Summons, and answer such Questions, on Forfeiture, to the Use of the said Corporation, of a Sum not exceeding Two Shillings and Six Pence for every Default, to be levied as is herein after directed.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Corporation, at the said Court or Assembly, shall have, and hereby have Power and Authority, from time to time, to make and appoint a Common Seal or Seals for the Use of the said Corporation, and to make and ordain By-laws, Rules, and Ordinances, for and concerning the better governing the said Corporation, and the Poor of the said City ; and shall have, and hereby have Power to purchase, buy, or erect an Hospital or Hospitals, Workhouse or Workhouses, House or Houses of Correction, and to provide what other Necessaries they shall think convenient for the setting to work the Poor of the said City, of what Sex or Age soever they be ; and shall have, and hereby have Power and Authority to compel such idle and poor People, begging or seeking Relief, who do not betake themselves to some lawful Employments, and such other Poor who do or shall hereafter receive Alms of the respective Parishes or Places where they inhabit or seek the same, or by any of the Laws now in Force ought to be maintained or provided for by any Parish or Place within the said City, to dwell and inhabit in such Hospital or Hospitals, Workhouse or Workhouses, and to do such Work as they shall think them able and fit for ; and to detain and keep in the Service of the said Corporation, until the Age of Sixteen Years, any poor Child or Children of the said City, left to be maintained by the said City, or any Parish or Place in the same, or begging or seeking Relief, or which by any of the Laws now in Force ought to be maintained and provided for by any Parish or Place within the said City, or the Child or Children of any other Person or Persons, that are or shall be willing or desirous to place or put their Child or Children in such Hospital or Hospitals, until their said Age of Sixteen Years ; and after they shall have attained their said Age of Sixteen Years, or sooner, the said Corporation, by Indenture, shall have Power to bind and put forth such Child or Children Apprentices, to any honest Person or Persons within the Kingdom of *England*, for any Number of Years,

not exceeding Seven Years, as they shall think convenient ; which Indenture shall be binding to such Child or Children.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Court or Assembly, so constituted, as aforesaid, shall have, and hereby have Power to inflict such reasonable Correction and Punishment on any poor Person or Persons within the said Hospital or Hospitals, Workhouse or Workhouses, House or Houses of Correction, that shall not conform to such Rules, Orders, and Ordinances, so made, as aforesaid, or misbehave themselves in the same ; and that the said Court or Assembly, so constituted, as aforesaid, shall have, and hereby have Power to appoint a Committee, to consist of One and twenty of the Guardians at the least, who, or any Five of them, of which Two shall be Assistants, shall, from time to time, or at any Time until the next Court, have Power to inflict such reasonable Correction and Punishment, as aforesaid, on any such poor Person or Persons offending, as aforesaid.

AND for the better carrying on so pious and charitable a Work, BE IT ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation, in their said Courts or Assemblies, from time to time, to set down and ascertain what Sum or Sums of Money shall be needful for the building and erecting of such Hospitals, Workhouses, or Houses of Correction, so that the same do not exceed the Sum of Five thousand Pounds, to be raised within the Space of Three Years, or any longer Time, as to them shall seem meet, by such quarterly or other Payments, as they in their Discretion shall think fit ; and also, from time to time, to set down and ascertain what weekly, monthly, or other Sums, shall be needful for the Maintenance of the Poor in the said Hospital or Hospitals, Workhouse or Workhouses, House or Houses of Correction, or within the Care of the said Corporation, so that the same do not exceed what hath been paid in the said City towards the Maintenance of the Poor thereof, in any one of the Three last Years ; and shall and may, under their Common Seal, certify the same unto the Mayor and Aldermen of the said City for the time being ; which said Mayor, and any Two of the Aldermen, or any Five of the said Aldermen without the Mayor, may and are hereby required, from time to time, to cause the same to be raised and levied by Taxation of every Inhabitant, and of all Lands, Houses, Tythes Improprate, Appropriation of Tythes, and all Stocks and Estates in the said City and County

of the same, in equal Proportion, according to their respective Worth and Values : And in order thereunto, the said Mayor, and any Two of the said Aldermen, or any Five of the said Aldermen without the Mayor, shall have Power, and are hereby required, indifferently to proportion out the said Sum and Sums upon each Parish and Precinct within the said city ; and by their Warrants under their Hands and Seals, to authorize and require the Churchwardens and Overseers of the Poor of each respective Parish and Precinct, to assess the same respectively : And after such Assessment made, by like Warrant under their Hands and Seals, to authorize the said respective Churchwardens and Overseers, to demand, gather, and receive the same, and for Non-payment thereof (being lawfully demanded) to levy the same by Distress and Sale of the Goods of the Offender, restoring the Surplusage to the Party so distrained : And if no Distress can be found, then it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Mayor and any two of the Aldermen, or any Five of the said Aldermen without the Mayor, to commit such Offender to Prison, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, till the same shall be paid ; and after the same shall be received, to pay the same unto the Treasurer of the said Corporation for the time being.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, That if any Person or Persons, Parish or Precinct, find him or themselves to be unequally taxed or assessed, he or they may appeal to the Justices of the Peace of the said City and County, at their next General Quarter Sessions, after such Assessment made and demanded, who shall, and hereby have full Power and Authority to take and make a final Order therein.

AND for the Encouragement of such as shall be Benefactors to so good a Design ; BE IT ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Man, charitably disposed, shall give One hundred Pounds, or more, towards carrying on the said Work, it shall and may be lawful for the said Corporation, at a Court where there shall be present Three and thirty of the said Guardians at the least, to elect and constitute such charitable Person to be a Guardian of the Poor of the said City, and to continue in the said Office, as long as to the said Corporation shall seem meet.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Corporation shall have the Care of, and provide for the Maintenance of all the Poor of the said City, of what Age or Kind soever they be, except such as shall be otherwise sufficiently

provided for by the charitable Gifts of other Persons, or in Hospitals or Almshouses within the said City already erected ; and in order thereunto shall have full Power to examine, search, and see what poor Persons there are come into, inhabiting or residing within the said City, or any Part thereof ; and shall have Power to apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, any Rogues, Vagrants, Sturdy Beggars, or idle or disorderly Persons within the said City and the County thereof, and to cause them to be kept and set to work in the said Workhouses, Hospitals, or Houses of Correction, for the Space of Three Years.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, AND BE IT ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That this Act, or any Thing herein contained, shall not in any wise extend to give the said Corporation any Power or Authority over any Almshouse or Hospital, or any other charitable Gift or Use, within the said City, already given, settled, or erected, but that the same shall be wholly exempted therefrom ; any thing herein to the contrary notwithstanding.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Corporation in their said Court or Assembly, shall have hereby Power to choose and entertain all such other Officers as shall be needful to be employed in and about the Premises, and them, or any of them, from time to time, to remove, as they shall see Cause ; and upon the Death or Removal of them, or any of them, to choose others in their Place, and to make and give such reasonable Allowances to them, or any of them, out of the Stock or Revenue belonging to the said Corporation or Hospitals, as they shall think fit.

PROVIDED ALWAYS, AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That no Officer or Officers, who shall be elected, chosen, appointed, or employed in the Execution of, or by virtue of this Act, or any of the Powers or Authorities thereby given, shall be liable for or by reason of such Office or Execution, to any of the Penalties mentioned in an Act made the Five and twentieth Year of the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, for the preventing the Dangers which may happen from Popish Recusants.

AND IT IS FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That the said Treasurer for the time being, and all other Officers belonging to the said Corporation, Hospitals, Workhouses, or Houses of Correction, shall, from time to time, before such Person or Persons as the said Corporation shall thereto appoint, account for such Monies, Stock, or other Things belonging to the

said Corporation, Hospitals, Workhouses, or Houses of Correction, as shall come to their respective Hands, or be under their respective Care, upon every reasonable Warning and Notice thereof by the said Corporation to them respectively given ; and on their Neglect or Refusal to account, as aforesaid, shall or may be, by the said Mayor, or any Two of the said Aldermen, committed to the County Gaol for the said City and County of *Bristol*, there to remain without Bail or Mainprize, until they shall become conformable, and account, as aforesaid ; and if upon such Account there shall appear any thing to be in their Hands belonging to the said Corporation, Hospitals, Workhouses, or Houses of Correction, they shall pay and deliver the same, as the said Corporation shall direct, or give such Security for the same, as the said Corporation shall approve of, on pain to forfeit double the Value thereof, to be recovered by the said Corporation, by Action of Debt, Bill, Plaint, or Information, in which no Protection, Essoin, or Wager of Law, or any more than One Imparlance, shall be admitted or allowed.

AND IT IS FURTHER ENACTED, That all other Pains, Penalties, and Forfeitures by this Act appointed, shall be levied by Distress and Sale of the Offender's Goods, by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of the said Treasurer for the time being, restoring to the Offender the Overplus.

AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED by the Authority aforesaid, That if any Person or Persons shall be sued for any Matter or Thing which he shall do in Execution of this Act, he may plead the General Issue, and give the Special Matter in Evidence ; and if the Verdict shall pass for the Defendant, or the Plaintiff shall be nonsuited, or discontinue his Suit, the Defendant shall recover his Treble Costs. And this Act shall be taken, and allowed in all Courts within this Kingdom, as a Publick Act ; and all Judges and Justices are hereby required, as such, to take Notice thereof, without specially pleading the same ; and all Mayors, Justices, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, and all other Officers and Ministers of Justice, are hereby required to be aiding and assisting to the said Corporation, and to all such Officers as shall be employed by them, or any of them, in the Execution of this Act, or any the Powers or Authorities hereby given.

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INDEX OF PERSONS

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